Hafa Adai!

$50K bail each for men who allegedly raped minor. PAGE 3
500 Sails' project offers free swimming lessons for women. PAGE 5

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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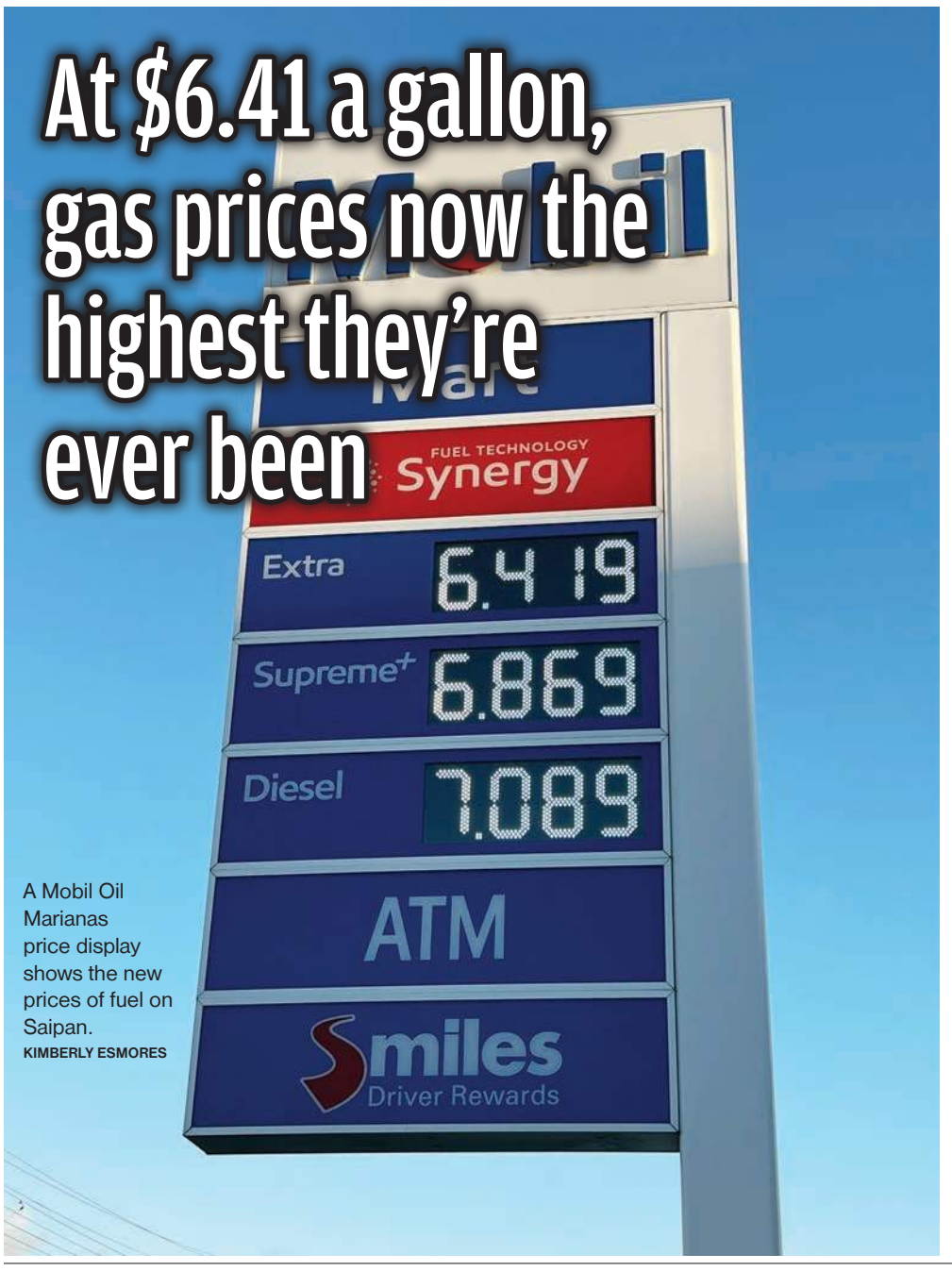
'People are struggling out here'



A Mobil Oil Marianas price display shows the new prices of fuel on Saipan.
KIMBERLY ESMORES

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The price of fuel in the CNMI is now historically the highest it's ever been, with a gallon of regular fuel now at an astonishing $6.41 and a full tank of gas now costs between $77 and $96.

This comes soon after gas prices went up yesterday morning by another 15 cents, led by Mobil Oil Marianas, which raised its regular fuel price from $6.26 for a gallon of its Extra fuel to $6.41. The oil company also hiked Its Supreme fuel from $6.71 per gallon to $6.86 while diesel is now $7.08 from $6.98.

See PEOPLE on Page 4

18,097 registered voters in the CNMI

» On Saipan, Precinct 1 still has the highest number of registered voters at 4,795

"CEC to hold series of voter registration drives starting Saturday to increase the number of registered voters for Nov. 8 election"

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of Wednesday, there were already 18,097 registered voters in the CNMI and the Commonwealth Election Commission will kick off tomorrow a series of voter registration drives on Saipan to increase that number for the Nov. 8 general election.

Sablan

Acting CEC executive director Robin Sablan disclosed in an interview Wednesday that, as of that day, there were 14,673 registered voters on Saipan/Northern Islands, 1,785 on Rota, and 1,639 on Tinian.

On Saipan, the biggest number of voters still come from Election Dis-

See VOTERS on Page 4

Judge: Amend complaint vs Senate

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Paul Manglona (D-Saipan) and his co-plaintiffs were ordered to amend their initial complaint against the Republican members of the Senate, now that the impeachment trial is over and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has been acquitted.

During a status conference and initial appearance before

See JUDGE on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

If IPI fails to pay CCC by August, October, its debt will balloon to $55.9M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC fails to pay its annual casino license fee and annual casino regulatory fee by this August and October, respectively, its total debt to the CNMI government will balloon to $55.9 million.

According to the latest CCC board meeting minutes, CCC chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero stated during their March 30, 2022, meeting that by law, Saipan casino exclusive licensee IPI is obligated by law to pay the annual casino license fee of $15,502,570 by Aug. 12 every year.

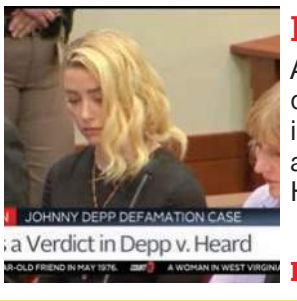
DeLeon Guerrero said IPI has yet to pay the August 2020 and August 2021 ca-

See IPI on Page 4

INSIDE

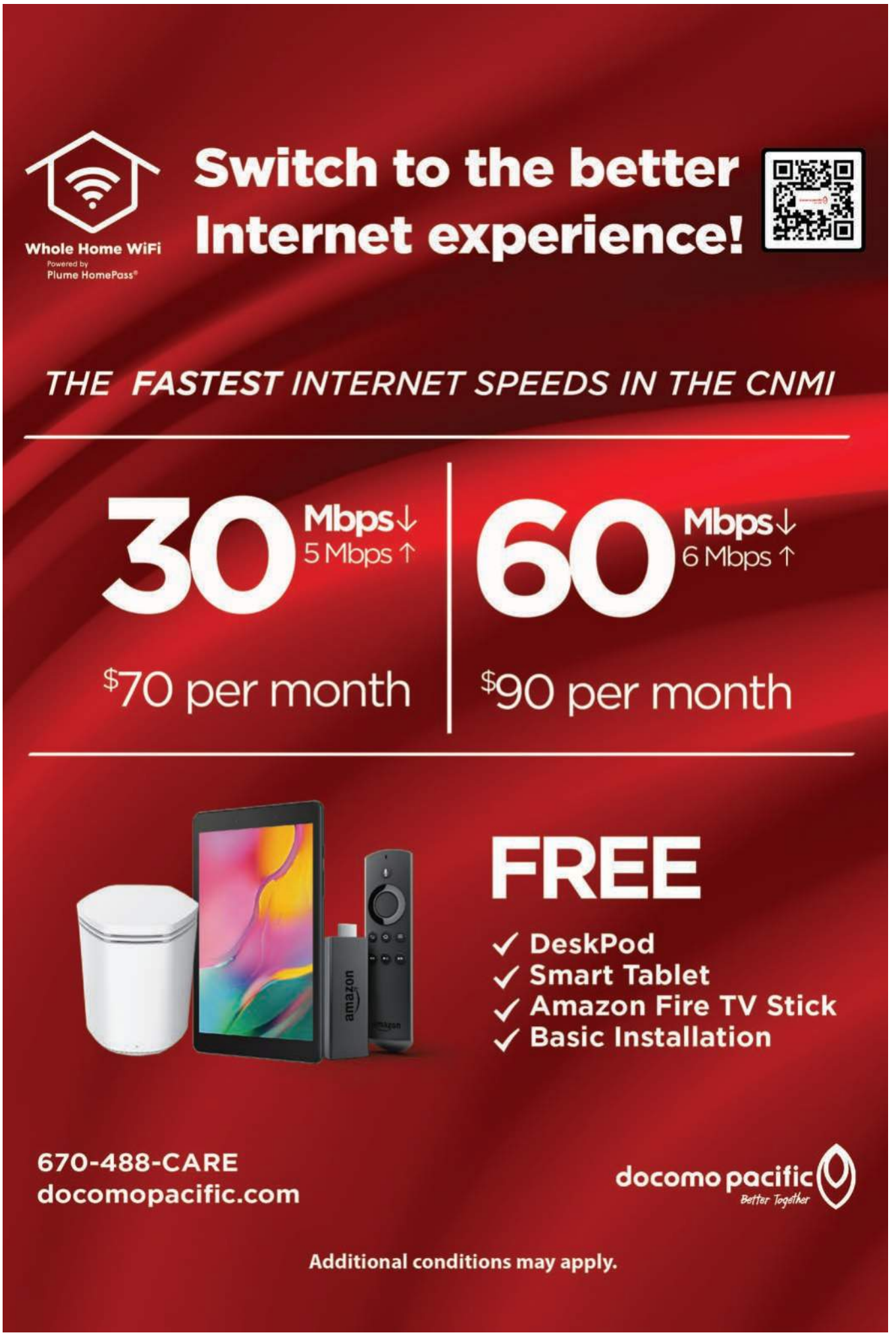
LOCAL
The CNMI joins the rest of the world in celebrating the month of June as Pride Month.
PAGE 15

NATION
A gunman carrying a rifle and a handgun killed four people at a Tulsa medical building.
PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE
A jury sided Wednesday with Johnny Depp in his libel lawsuit against ex-wife Amber Heard.
PAGE 19

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



Local

GUAM COVID UPDATE

364th COVID-related death; 106 new cases

Guam's Joint Information Center reported yesterday the U.S. territory's 364th COVID-19-related Fatality.

It said the JIC was notified that Guam's 364th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City on June 2, 2022. The patient was a 76-year-old male, vaccinated with one booster, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on May 12.

"We are saddened to learn of continued loss and heartache in our community, and to his family and those who loved him, we extend our deepest condolences and sympathies," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "We are reminded that this virus remains a threat, and to those at highest risk, please reinforce the mitigation measures that helped us to progress through this pandemic. Get vaccinated and boosted if it's your time and wear your mask, especially in large crowds."

Last Friday, the JIC reported Guam's 363rd COVID-19-related fatality. The patient was a 58-year-old male, un-

See COVID on Page 4

SAVE THE DATE: Military vehicles static display event

The Naval Surface Warfare Center Detachment is inviting members of the public to a static display of its simulated High Vehicle Targets to learn about the HVT capabilities and the NSWC's naval technologies in support of naval surface fleet with integration, testing, evaluation, and life-cycle engineering support.

The Static Display event is on Saturday, June 4, 2022, from 1pm to 4pm, at the airport field on Saipan. ***(PR)***

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$50K bail each for men who allegedly raped minor

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $50,000 cash bail each on two men who are being accused of raping a minor at a beach in Susupe.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed Tuesday a $50,000 cash bail each on Tim Onopey, 25, and Frankie Rettanlug, 27, who allegedly raped a 17-year-old girl last May 29, at the beach area near Guma Sakman. The two men are facing charges of sexual assault in the first degree.

The defendants were remanded back to Department of Corrections custody after they failed to post bail and were ordered to return to court on June 8 at 10am for a preliminary hearing. Bogdan also scheduled the men for an arraignment on June 13 at 9am.

Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds appeared for the government while assistant public defender Karie Comstock appeared for Rettanlug. The court said it will appoint a defense counsel for Onopey.

According to court documents, Onopey allegedly gave the minor a beer before repeatedly asking her to swim with him. The victim said she accepted the beer and eventually agreed to go swimming.

She told police that she and Onopey swam to the buoy and that's when Onopey allegedly started sexually assaulting her. The 17-year-old told police she tried to move away from Onopey but every time she did, he would pull her back. The victim said she repeatedly asked Onopey to stop, to no avail.

After the alleged sexual assault, the victim said they swam to shore but she was afraid to get help because Onopey was still in the area.

While on the shore, the minor said she laid down to rest because she was very dizzy and felt like she was going to faint; she eventually fell asleep.

When she woke up, she said Rettanlug approached her and asked what happened to her and Onopey and then invited her to go closer to the shoreline. When she refused, the victim said Rettanlug dragged her to the beach where Rettanlug sexually assaulted her. The victim said she managed to get away from him but he grabbed her legs and dragged her back so she kicked water in his face, which caused him to stop.

When she got away, she said she went to where there were people she could talk to about the incident.

In a separate statement to police, Rettanlug allegedly admitted to sexually assaulting the minot and that he knew she was 17 years old because he overheard Onopey asking her how old she was.

US senator visits Taiwan as China ups military threat

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)— U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth on Tuesday reiterated America's support for Taiwan on her second visit in a year to the self-governing island claimed by China.

Duckworth, meeting with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, emphasized the close economic, political and security relations between Taipei and Washington.

China sent 30 military aircraft toward the island on Monday in an ongoing campaign of regular flights. Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it responded by scrambling jets, putting air defense missile systems on alert and issuing radio warnings.

Duckworth said she wanted to "emphasize our support for Taiwan security." The former Army helicopter pilot and lieutenant colonel in the National Guard cited strong bipartisan backing for a bill she has put forward promoting cooperation between Taiwan's armed forces and the National Guard.

"I do want to say that it is more than just about military. It's also about the economy," the Illinois Democrat told Tsai.

Tsai thanked the U.S. government and Congress "for the importance they place on peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," as well as Duckworth herself for "keeping a close watch on Taiwan related security issues."

China said it strongly deplores Duckworth's visit.

"Taiwan is a province of China, and there is no so-called president," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said. He urged the U.S. to end all official contacts with Taiwan.

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CHCC asks for $116.8M budget for FY 2023

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is asking for a budget of $116.8 million for fiscal year 2023, even as CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muna also pointed out yesterday that policies such as the "touchback" requirement for foreign workers and lack of sufficient funding make it difficult for them to recruit and retain nurses.

House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) also disclosed at yesterday's budget hearing for CHCC that CHCC was not included in the administration's original budget submission. He said they anticipate CHCC's budget request to be included in the administration's revised budget submission, which they expect to receive by July 1.

He said that CHCC did provide the Legislature with what they have in regards to their budget request: In total, CHCC is requesting $116,811,509 for the upcoming fiscal year. Of that amount, $71.7 million will be allocated for personnel, $41.3 million for operations, and $3.78 million for utilities.

Manglona said the agency's combined "all other expenses" comes to a total of roughly $45.1 million.

In addition, he said, CHCC projects they will receive $93,903,284 in total revenue collections throughout 2023 fiscal year, derived from five revenue funding sources within the agency.

He said $92 million of all projected revenue collections would come from revenue sources on Saipan, with the remaining amount provided by the agency's public health program, Bureau of Environmental Health, Medicaid, Rota and Tinian.

With a budget request of $116.8 million and $92 million projected revenue collections, Manglona said that CHCC would still be short by about $22.9 million. He said CHCC requests that this $22.9 million be provided through a local appropriation.

Of this amount, Manglona said, $8.2 million will be used to provide funding for 166 new full-time employees that CHCC seeks to employ this coming fiscal year.

"The remaining amount of this request shall be used to cover various expenses, including the increased costs of medication for oncology patients, funding for utilities and capital improvements," Manglona said.

Muña told the Ways and Means Committee that the budget approved by the CHCC board of trustees represents continuous improvements for the hospital and health system.

Muña said they have added a radiologist and cardiologist to their staff and that this is on top of their only other specialists—an oncologist, nephrologist, otolaryngologist, and orthopedic surgeon.

"All come with a heavy price tag but are still not near what is offered and paid for in other U.S. hospitals," she said.

The CHCC CEO said expanding services in their health system is critical to improving the health and livelihoods of all people who live in the CNMI.

"But just like any hospital, we have to spend first to get paid. We have to spend on personnel, equipment, and support services, including nursing, maintenance, and billers," she said.

Muña said that's specifically difficult when CHCC never really had a proper investment from the CNMI government for health.

That's difficult, she said, when there are Medicaid policies that provide high matching percentage by the local government or that the local government consistently does not match the territorial share.

"It's difficult when you have policies that make it difficult for us to recruit and retain nurses, such as the 'touchback' regulation and lack of appropriation," Muña said.

"Touchback" refers to a brief period when certain foreign workers are required to exit the CNMI and return to their home country after a certain number of renewals of their work visas. Some workers will be affected by the provision starting next year.

Muña said it's been challenging for CHCC when they have personnel experiencing burnout during the COVID-19 response, such that a decision to leave CHCC and the CNMI is easier to make.

She said one of the most valuable and cost-effective ways to improve a person's health and well-being is health promotion and disease prevention.

"It's difficult to provide adequate health promotion and disease promotion when there's this myth that the federal government will pay for everything," the CEO said.

Muña noted that even the federal Infrastructure Act has no special grant to build a new hospital.

She said CNMI needs an upgraded hospital facility.

CHCC has added more personnel from health equity grants and grants that emphasize public health and mental health.

"We need more surgical suites and more rooms dedicated to intensive care needs," Muña said.

She said the amount that they're asking for is tremendous and that they based this on the needs of the community.

"Please consider this as an investment. Think of what we can achieve for our people. Think of providing us the tools to combat health issues affecting our people and providing much medical treatment," Muña said the lawmakers.

At the budget hearing, CHCC chief financial officer Perlie Santos made a presentation on their budget needs and requests. She explained, among other things, as to why the CNMI government must provide adequate funding for health in the Commonwealth.

VOTERS

From Page 1

trict/Precinct 1 with 4,795, followed by Election District/Precinct 3 with 3,806. Election District/Precinct 5 has 2,753, Election District/Precinct 4 has 1,824, and Election District/Precinct 2 has 1,495.

At the November 2020 general election, CEC reported a total of 18,519 registered voters in the CNMI.

Sablan said the series of voter registration drives, which all will be conducted from 9am to 2pm, will start tomorrow, Saturday, at the Santa Remedios Social Hall.

Sablan said the other drives will be on June 11 at the Kagman Community Center, June 18 at the Carolinian Affairs Office, June 20 at the Koblerville Youth Center, and June 25 at the San Vicente Youth Center.

He said they also held similar drives on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from February to May 2022.

Sablan said they want to tackle the registration until Sept. 9, which is the last day for registration for this November election.

"But we want to do the registration drive for all every Saturday beginning this Saturday at the youth centers, or villages so that whoever doesn't have car or whatever reasons, they can come and register," Sablan said.

He said new registrants need to bring their birth certificate or passport.

"We need to have anything from a government institution a documentation to indicate their citizenship," he said.

Sablan said for now, only the Mayor's Office identification card, U.S. passport, birth certificate, and naturalization card indicate citizenship.

"All we're concerned is to make sure that the person in the ID, it has to be U.S. citizen," he said.

Sablan said previously registered voters who have failed to vote in the 2018 and 2020 general elections must re-register to be eligible to vote in the Nov. 8, 2022 general election.

For first-time voters, they are required to provide a valid U.S. passport or birth certificate.

COVID

From Page 2

vaccinated, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on May 7. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Regional Medical City on May 7, 2022.

"Jeff, Josh, and I offer our sincerest condolences to his family," said Leon Guerrero. "Today's news of another member of our community lost is a harsh reminder that COVID-19 remains ever present. Those who suffer from cold or flu-like symptoms, especially individuals with underlying health conditions, are reminded not to wait until it's too late. Check in with your doctor and get tested if you have symptoms."

106 new cases reported

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services reported **1**06 new cases of COVID-19 from 667 specimens analyzed June 1, 2022. Twenty-seven of the cases reported yesterday were through the Department of Defense. To date, there have been a total of 49,262 officially reported cases, 364 deaths, 379 cases in active isolation, and **48,519** not in active isolation.

Last Wednesday**,** Guam's DPHSS reported 81 new cases of COVID-19 from 989 specimens analyzed May 31, 2022. Eight of the cases reported were through the Department of Defense. To date, there have been a total of 49,156 officially reported cases, 363 deaths, 309 cases in active isolation, and 48,484 not in active isolation. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PEOPLE

From Page 1

Shell Marianas is expected to implement a similar increase today. Both oil companies typically mirror each other's price fluctuations.

For the past few weeks, CNMI fuel prices have been seesawing between increases and decreases. Prior to yesterday's increase, oil companies across the CNMI raised prices by 15 cents on May 20 and, prior to that, by 15 cents last May 6. Last April 20, the CNMI saw a steep increase of 20 cents, with local oil companies increasing regular fuel prices to $5.96 a gallon.

The CNMI saw its first fuel increase of the year back on Jan. 5.

A 24-year-old local motorist said the only way she could describe how she felt after learning of yet another increase was sad.

"It's just so sad that it's looking like this is the new normal, a continuous increase in fuel prices. I am at a loss for words. This is the highest anyone has ever seen fuel in the Marianas," she said.

Another motorist said she hopes that either fuel prices go down, or some kind of assistance is rendered to help those who are still in recovering from the economic impact of COVID-19.

"There are still a lot of people recovering from the pandemic and now we're hit with these insane gas prices. Something has to give, either the price of fuel or some sort of assistance. People are struggling out here, myself included," she said.

JUDGE

From Page 1

Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino, Manglona and co-plaintiffs, Carmen Deleon Guerrero and Bruce Lee Jorgensen, informed the court of their intent to submit an amended complaint against the Senate.

Tolentino, for his part, ordered the plaintiffs to submit their first amended complaint no later than June 7.

The judge also allowed the defendants to file their response pleading by June 17, before scheduling a status conference on June 24.

"All parties are ordered to appear at the scheduled hearing where the court may set the matter for trial," Tolentino stated.

In a brief interview with the plaintiffs outside the courthouse, Manglona and Deleon Guerrero stated that it is very important for their case to push through because of the alleged Open Government Act violations that reportedly took place throughout the impeachment proceedings.

"We want to resolve that. We're also doing this because of fair and equal representation of our people. It's all about the people," said Deleon Guerrero.

Meanwhile, Jorgensen gave the media a glimpse of what the focus of the amendments would be.

"The amendments will focus on remedial avenues that are now available to us such as returning to the status quo and having the Senate address once again the Senate rules that were passed in violation of the Open Government Act and procedures involved. We will also modify the relief we are requesting so we can tailor them to our current circumstance," he said.

Manglona and his co-plaintiffs initially filed five causes of actions to sue Republican members of the Senate on the grounds of violations of the Open Government Act, violations of the CNMI Constitution, breach of constitutional duty, and alleged deprivation of due process and civil rights.

Their complaint names Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Sens. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian), Victor Hocog (R-Rota), Francisco Cruz (R-Rota), Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan), and Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan) as defendants.

IPI

From Page 1

sino license fee.

The chairman also noted that the $3,150,000 annual casino regulatory fee, which is due Oct. 1 every year, is also delinquent and remains unpaid for 2020 and 2021. DeLeon Guerrero said between the two fees, IPI owes a total of 37.3 million.

CCC's funding source of operations is the $3.1 million annual casino regulatory fee.

If IPI also fails to pay the $15.5 million casino license fee this August and the $3.1 million casino regulatory fee this October, its debt with CCC will reach $55.9 million.

Last Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona extended for another 30 days the temporary restraining order that she issued against CCC that prohibits the CCC from moving forward with the revocation hearing of IPI's casino license. The judge said the parties in the case informed her that they are making significant progress toward a settlement agreement.

DeLeon Guerrero noted that since the start of the casino industry, CCC has made every effort to assist IPI in understanding the rules, regulations, and laws.

The chairman, however, stated he still believes that the casino industry has a role in revitalizing the local economy and that he hopes that IPI would get its affairs in order as soon as possible.

500 Sails' project offering free swimming lessons for women

Photo shows Sirena Project swimmers with swim coach Emma Perez, third from the right.
LINDSAY NASH

500 Sails is calling for women and teenage girls who would like to take free swimming lessons under its program, Sirena Project.

These free swim lessons take place every Sunday at 11am at Guma Sakman, taught by master swim instructor Andrea Carr. "Cultural storytelling is a huge component of teaching; there's so much wisdom to be passed on and we're only scratching at the surface," said Carr.

The unique aspect of the Sirena Project swimming program is that these lessons are infused with cultural aspects relating to the natural world—wisdom shared by our cultural practitioners and master navigators.

The project aims not only to promote stewardship of the ocean, but to also empower young women to be comfortable in their own skin, gain a better outlook on life, nurture connections with others, and also, for an hour, take them away from the draw of technology and social media to try something new.

Also, the program offers a natural, alternative outlet for an active lifestyle to help address suicide rates in the CNMI that are twice that of the national average; young girls were twice as likely as boys to have experienced a depressive episode at the age of 15.

500 Sails was the recipient of a 2021 U.S. Accelerator Catalyst Grant awarded by the Sierra Club to its leaders who attended last year's Women's Earth Alliance U.S. Grassroots Accelerator program. ***(PR)***

CNMI Republican Party statement

The Republican Party of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands issues the following statement relative to independent gubernatorial candidate Arnold Palacios' health following his collapse during cross-examination in court:

The Republican Party asks all supporters to pray for a full and speed recovery for independent candidate for governor, Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios. We would never wish any ill upon Mr. Palacios or any candidate in any election."

For information regarding this statement contact CNMI GOP president Candace Celis at cnmigop2022@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF ROLL UP DOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ARFF Roll Up Doors Replacement Project, No. CPA-SA-001-20.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, June 3, 2022.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 9, 2022

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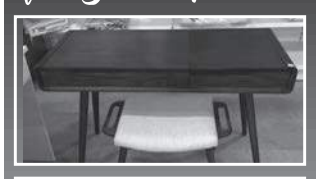

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 063

Opening Date: May 26, 2022
Closing Date: June 09, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Direct Responsible Charge "DRC", aka Trades Supervisor**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$32,161.00 to $43,417.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Supervises in the installation, repair and maintenance of water mains and other associated components including hydrants, meters, water tanks, water service lines, valves and pumps;
- Supervises and trains employees in the operation of appropriate motor and other equipment including back hoes, trucks, trenchers, boom trucks, drills, tapping machines, and locating devices;
- Assists in the coordination and inspection of work performed by contractors and engineers;
- Supervises in the preventative maintenance, service and repair activities of the water distribution vehicles and equipment;
- Supervises in the repair of leaks in mains and water service installations;
- Supervises in the taking of routine water samples for water quality testing;
- Ensures compliance with policies, procedures, safety guidelines, schedules and work specifications;
- Assigns, schedules and verifies completed work involved in the repair and maintenance of a water distribution system;
- May assist in the preparation of the departmental budget;
- Maintains accurate records and prepares reports, such as status reports, diagrams, field logs and requisitions;
- Calculates proper ratio of chlorine to water based on formula's specific to water chlorination;
- Responds to customer's inquiries and complaints regarding water service.
- Assignment of work orders to field staff and tracking of completed work.
- Conducts staff's performance evaluations.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS, and 5 years of experience in assigned area of responsibility and 2 years' experience in a supervisory capacity; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics.
Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
Licensing:
- o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- o Water Distribution Operator Certification Level 3
- o Water Treatment Operator Certification Level 3

Physical Demands:
- o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 064

Opening Date: June 1, 2022
Closing Date: June 14, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Training & Development Manager**
DEPARTMENT:	**Admin / Executive Director Office**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$56,439.00 to $76,192.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Manages the functions of the training and development program, which includes planning, coordinating, administering, and evaluating programs, projects, processes, procedures, systems, standards, and/or services. Ensures compliance with organizational and Federal, Commonwealth, and local laws, regulations, codes, and/or standards.
- Serves as a liaison with internal departments, officials, agencies, partners, contractors and other external organizations, groups and representatives. Serves as a representative at a variety of meetings, public events, on committees, and/or other related events regarding training and development.
- Analyze training needs to develop new training programs or modify and improve existing programs.
- Evaluate instructor performance and the effectiveness of training programs, providing recommendations for improvement.
- Plan, develop, and provide training and staff development programs, using knowledge of the effectiveness of methods such as classroom training, demonstrations, on-the-job training, meetings, conferences, and workshops.
- Prepare training budget for department or organization.
- Confer with management and conduct surveys to identify training needs based on projected production processes, changes, and other factors.
- Develop and organize training manuals, multimedia visual aids, and other educational materials.
- Develop testing and evaluation procedures.
- Train instructors and supervisors in techniques and skills for training and dealing with employees.
- Conduct orientation sessions and arrange on-the-job training for new hires.
- Conduct or arrange for ongoing technical training and personal development classes for staff members.
- Review and evaluate training and apprenticeship programs for compliance with government standards.
- This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.
- Assists in planning, developing, recommending and implementing goals, objectives, policies, procedures and standards. Coordinates operational and program efforts in alignment with goals and objectives of assigned area of responsibility.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's Degree in a directly related field and 5 years of professional experience in the assigned field including 2 years of leadership experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics.
Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
Licensing: o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
Physical Demands:
- o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Revised income eligibility rules for WIC program

Effective last June 1, 2022, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. implemented new income eligibility guidelines for the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children Program, more commonly known as WIC.

CHCC said in a statement released yesterday the new income eligibility guidelines come as the WIC program continues its efforts to ensure food access, breastfeeding support, and reassurance for young families during the pandemic.

WIC services are available to CNMI's pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of five who are at nutritional risk and who are at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. A pregnant woman is considered two family members.

Family Members in Household	Yearly Household Income	Monthly Household Income	Twice-Monthly Household Income	Bi-Weekly Household Income	Weekly Household Income
1	$25,142	$2,096	$1,048	$967	$484
2	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
3	42,606	3,551	1,776	1,639	820
4	51,338	4,279	2,140	1,975	988
5	60,070	5,006	2,503	2,311	1,156
6	68,802	5,734	2,867	2,647	1,324
7	77,534	6,462	3,231	2,983	1,492
8	86,266	7,189	3,595	3,318	1,659
Each Additional Member Add	+$8,732	+$728	+$364	+$336	+$168

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or Medicaid, automatically meet the income requirement.

The following essential documents are required for certification (required for everyone who will be enrolling into the WIC program):

- Identification for adults (driver's license, photo ID)
- Child's identification (shot record, birth certificate, crib card)
- Proof of income (30 days of recent paystubs, Medicaid card, NAP card)
- Proof of address (mail from CUC, NAP card, map to residence)

For general inquiries about the WIC Program or eligibility, call (670) 664-4084. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237
info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com
The Marianas

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan.**

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      i. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 3, 2022
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   a. Finance Committee
      i. Fund Status Report
   b. Destination Enhancement
4) **Old Business**
   a. MVA-CT-21-2026 Local Public Relations and Media Services (Integrity Communications
5) **New Business**
   a. Financial Assistance Program
   b. MVA Office
      i. Funding for Communications
   c. MVA-CT-19-2014 BCM LLC Contract – Change Order
   d. Request for Proposal (RFP) – Graphic Design Services
   e. Managing Director Contract Renewal
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
   a. FY2023 Budget Hearing
   b. Global Branding Services
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

June is CNMI Ocean Month

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Ralph Torres was joined by many environmental advocates at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Wednesday afternoon for the proclamation signing designating the month of June as CNMI Ocean Month, and June 8 as CNMI Ocean Day.

The proclamation signing was followed by a roadside waving that kicked off the month of June with a variety of activities and events in the CNMI to celebrate the ocean.

Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the Friends of the Mariana Trench board, among other responsibilities, and was the event's keynote speaker, called on everyone to volunteer with different organizations that play a role in protecting the environment and the ocean, including Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Friends of the Mariana Trench, and others. "You can plan a beach cleanup, reduce your plastic usage, join and support programs like Project HOPE and the Talaya workshop. You can do something, anything, because when the ocean thrives, our traditions thrive too," she said.

Roberta Guerrero, who is MINA's executive director, said that small our actions can make a huge difference. "And so again, thank you all so much for your support and your hard work. I know sometimes y'all go home at the end of the day, just like I'm so exhausted. But you get up in the morning and you're ready to do it all over again. And that's what it's all about. It's ocean stewardship."

Nationally, June is known as National Ocean Month and June 8 is recognized as World Oceans Day.

As part of the month's activities, the second annual CNMI Ocean Fair will be held on June 4, June 11, and June 17, from 10am to 2pm on Saipan, Tinia, and Rota. The Saipan Ocean Fair will be at the Civic Center in Susupe.

For more information on the 2022 CNMI Ocean Month activities or how to get involved, contact the Ocean Month co-chairs Colleen Flores at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp or Jovahna Taitingfong at jtaitingfong@dcrm.gov.mp.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
		4/13/2022	OPEN UNTIL FILLED
JVA #22-005 REANNOUNCEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER JVA #22-008 REANNOUNCEMENT SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR			

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
		6/3/2022	OPEN UNTIL FILLED
JVA #22-009 REANNOUNCEMENT	MARKETING SPECIALIST I		

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT HTTPS://WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM/ANNOUNCEMENTS/ FOR MORE DETAILS.

The Mobility Space is
Getting Greener
in the Northern Mariana Islands

The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through theimplementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.

www.enterprise.com | Email: reservations@ehiglobalsaipan.com
Corporate Office (Airport Road) (670) 288-4400 • Hotline: (671) 888-6055 • (670) 285-4405

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950
Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of June 03, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR)	04/22/2022 SMS-2022-029	Garapan Revetment (Shoreline Stabilization) Project	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved* 05/31/2022
2. CNMI United Investment Corporation, Ltd	05/11/2022 SS-2018-X-038-A1	Installation of Temporary Chainlink Fence, Staging & Stockpiling, Field Office, Storage and Backfilling	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved 05/27/2022
3. Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	05/17/2022 SMS-03-X-21-A1	Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting Facility (ARFF) Rapid Refill Project	Dandan, Saipan	Major Siting	Application Review
4. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	05/19/2022 TMS-2022-035	Triple J Barracks & Commercial Building	Marpo Valley, Tinian	Major Siting	Application* Review
5. Blue Ocean Tinian Corporation	05/19/2022 TLRm-2022-002	Scuba Diving Operations	All Designated Dive Sites Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
6. Marianas Trekking LLC	05/20/2022 SLR-2018-X-101-R5	Kayaking, Canoeing, Stand Up Paddle Board, Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
7. Rubin Corporation dba Rota Scuba Center	05/23/2022 RLR-2018-X-0608-R5	Scuba Diving Operations	All Designated Dive Sites Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/23/2022
8. Diving Shop Light House Inc.	05/23/2022 SLR-2018-X-169-R5	Scuba Diving Tour/Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
9. DK S M Corporation dba Tinian Dive	05/25/2022 TLRm-2022-003	Scuba Diving Operations	All Designated Dive Sites Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
10.Zen Corporation dba Aqua Marine Sports	05/25/2022 SLR-2018-X-065-R5	Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Board Snorkeling, Sailing, Wind Surfing, & Hobie Cat	Achugao-San Roque Areas & Grotto Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
11.Noriko Akari Baidya dba Sakura Saipan	05/25/2022 SLR-2022-007-R2	Commercial Scuba Diving Operation – UBA Activities	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
12.BSEA Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	05/25/2022 SLR-2018-X-077-R5	Parasailing Operations	All Designated Parasailing Zones Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
13.BSEA Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	05/25/2022 SLR-2018-X-076-R5	Banana Boat & Snorkeling Tour	All Designated Lagoon Zones Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
14.Rafaelito B. Alvarado	05/26/2022 SLR-2022-037	Snorkeling (Watch)	Grotto	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
15.Mariana Growth LLC	05/26/2022 TMS-2022-038	Tinian Quarry	Marpo Valley Tinian	Major Siting	Application Review*
16.Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) – Division Of Fish & Wildlife (DFW)	05/27/2022 SS-2022-036	Sugar Dock Ramp Maintenance, Sand Removal & 13 Fishermen Beach Nourishment	Susupe & Garapan Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 05/31/2022
17.Aqua Connections, Inc.	05/27/2022 STLR-2018-X-067-R5	Snorkeling & Scuba Diving Tour Operation/Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
18.HI-Five Co., LTD	05/27/2022 SLR-2018-X-115-R5	Snorkeling Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
19.Dive Marianas Corporation dba Dive Saipan	05/27/2022 SLR-2018-X-088-R5	Scuba Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
20.Deep Blue Sea Corporation	05/27/2022 STLR-2018-X-089-R5	Scuba Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
21.Micronesia Resort, Inc dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	06/01/2022 SLR-2018-X-185-R5	Sailing, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle Board & Kayaking	Area Fronting Kensington Hotel Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
22.Axe Murderer Tours, LLC	06/01/2022 SLR-2022-039	Scuba Diving Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

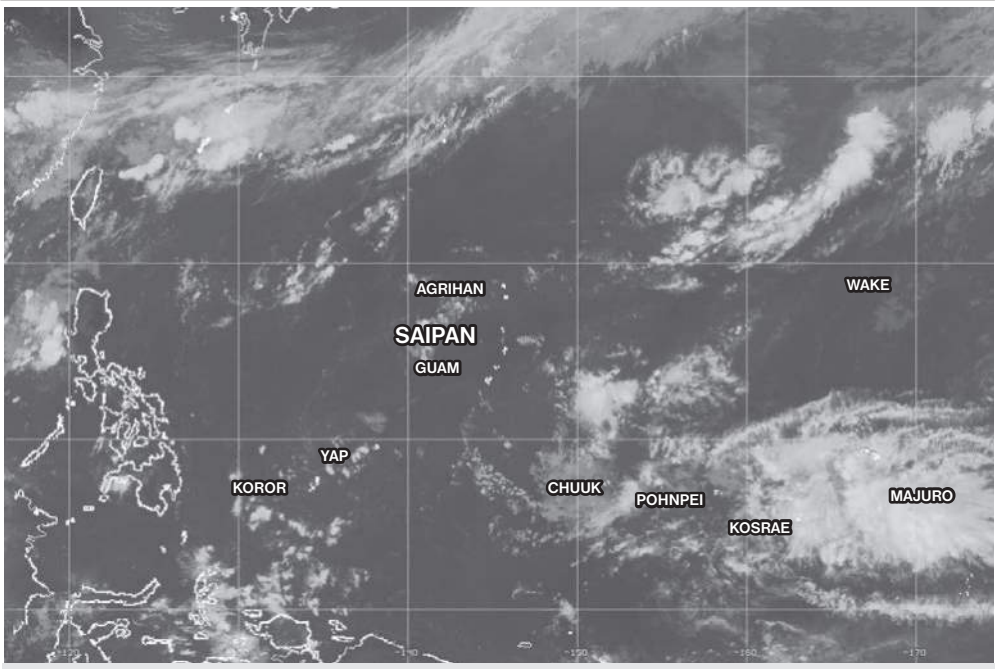
The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny, with Scattered showers. East wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.	Partly sunny, with Scattered showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly sunny,	Mostly sunny, .	Partly cloudy
87º 78º	87º 78º	87º 78º	87º 78º	87º 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:50 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle trade winds prevail in the Marianas, with some afternoon showers and isolated thunderstorms in western waters of Guam expected later today. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are about 3 to 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	AM Thunderstorms	31 / 26 °F
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	30/ 26 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	8 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:45 AM	18:44 PM
Saturday	05:45 AM	18:44 PM
Sunday	05:45 AM	18:45 PM
Monday	05:45 AM	18:45 PM
Tuesday	05:45 AM	18:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	08:30	21:57 PM	-
Saturday	09:22	22:42 PM	-
Sunday	10:14	23:24 PM	-
Monday	11:05	-	-
Tuesday	-	00:04 PM	11:56

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain/Wind	16 / 11 °F
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	37/ 23 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	30 / 28 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	29 / 22 °F
London	Partly Cloud	22 / 12 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	25 / 16 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	3 / 27 °F
Melbourne	Cloudy	13 / 9 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	26 / 24 °F
New York	AM Showers	26 / 16 °F
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	28 / 18 °F
Paris	PM Thunderstorms	26 / 16 °F
Busan	Partly Cloudy	25 / 18 °F
Rome	Sunny	35 / 21 °F
Salem	PM Thunderstorms	29 / 19 °F
San Francisco	Cloudy	17 / 132F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	33 / 18 °F
Tokyo	PM Thunderstorms	27 / 16°F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	27 / 15 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
04:32 AM	Low Tide	1.46
08:36 AM	High Tide	1.78
4:17 PM	Low Tide	-0.02
11:55 PM	High Tide	1.90

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	7
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

A184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

OIA pays for insular areas' WICHE membership fees

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced a payment of $174,900 in Technical Assistance Program fiscal year 2022 grant funding to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education for membership fees for the benefit of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

"We are especially pleased that this funding helps provide opportunities for capacity development and higher education," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "We encourage administrators and teachers in the insular areas to notify students of the new opportunities across institutes of higher education, especially as students from the Insular Areas are underrepresented across institutes of higher education in the United States."

Membership in WICHE provides opportunities for students from the insular areas to participate in ongoing initiatives related to higher education, workforce development, and behavioral health. This new collaboration also guarantees in-state tuition rates for students from the territories and the freely associated states at hundreds of institutes of higher education across the Western region of the United States. ***(PR)***

OIA opens leadership program for USVI officials

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced that applications are now being accepted for the 2022 - 2023 cohort of the U.S. Virgin Islands Executive Leadership Development Program.

» Applications being accepted for the 2022 – 2023 cohort until July 22

Public sector employees working for the U.S. Virgin Islands government with at least two consecutive years of government service are encouraged to apply online at https://pitiviti.org/apply/ before July 22, 2022.

"We strongly encourage eligible public servants in the U.S. Virgin Islands to apply for this program that is designed and specifically tailored to participants from the Virgin Islands," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "The program was developed to strengthen and build the capacity of all our public servants in the Insular Areas, and we hope that those who are eligible strongly consider taking advantage of this great opportunity."

Nakoa

The nine-month program for the U.S. Virgin Islands cohort offers experiential training content intended to develop public service values and leadership skills, giving participants exposure to a network of leading experts and peers from the U.S. federal government.

Commissioned by OIA in 2008, the ELDP was designed to assist the insular governments with developing and retaining qualified and talented professionals needed to lead their governments into the future. Today, the ELDP serves as the premier leadership development program for government employees in critical positions throughout the insular areas, which include four U.S. territories and three freely associated states. The ELDP alumni network now numbers over 175 strong and represents virtually every government agency in the Insular Areas. ELDP alumni work as dedicated public servants, directors, ambassadors, doctors, elected representatives, judges, cabinet members, and more.

The USVI ELDP is funded through the OIA's Technical Assistance Program and administered by the Graduate School USA's Pacific and Virgin Islands Training Initiatives through the Center for Leadership and Management in Washington, D.C. More information about the USVI ELDP can be found at pitiviti.org. ***(PR)***

OIA awards $1.5M grant for Close-Up and Junior State Foundation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced $1,499,430 in fiscal year 2022 Technical Assistance Program grant funding to two civic engagement and education programs for insular areas students. One million dollars has been provided to the Close-Up Foundation and $499,430 has been provided to the Junior State Foundation.

"The educational opportunities provide by both Close-Up and Junior State Foundation are undeniable, and thanks to funding made available by Congress, students from the insular areas will once again be able take full advantage of these unique learning programs," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa.

For the past three decades, Interior has supported over 10,000 students and educators from the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and from the freely associated states (Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau) to participate in Junior State Foundation and Close-up Foundation student exchange programs.

On May 26, 2022, Interior also announced grant funding to fund membership fees for the insular areas in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, which makes students from the territories and the freely associated states eligible for in-state tuition rates at participating schools in the western United States.

Information about the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and funding assistance for the insular areas can be found at www.doi.gov/oia. ***(OIA)***

OIA: $35M Compact Impact funds available for FY 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced the availability of $35 million in fiscal year 2022 Compact Impact funding to be provided to Hawai'i, Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa. The total amount includes $30 million in mandatory funding made available under U.S. Public Law 108-188 and an additional $5 million in discretionary funding made available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-103).

"I am pleased to announce that all fiscal year 2022 Compact Impact funds have been made available to each eligible jurisdiction impacted by the Compacts of Free Association," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "Both the mandatory and additional discretionary funding will help supplement costs borne by these four state and territory governments and are usually utilized to offset government operations."

Provided for under the Compact of Free Association, as amended, U.S. Public Law 108-188, mandatory funding is made available to each of these eligible governments to help defray costs associated with increased demands placed on health, education, and social services, or infrastructure related to such services provided to individuals who have migrated from the freely associated states to these U.S. jurisdictions. Additional discretionary funds may be made available at the discretion of Congress. The total of $35 million in Compact Impact funds for fiscal year 2022 has been assigned to each jurisdiction as follows:

Affected Jurisdiction	Mandatory	Discretionary	Totals
Hawai'i	$15,798,564	$2,633,094	$18,431,658
Guam	$12,532,239	$2,088,706	$14,620,945
CNMI	$ 1,652,879	$ 275,480	$ 1,928,359
American Samoa	$ 16,318	$ 2,720	$ 19,038
Totals	$30,000,000	$5,000,000	$35,000,000

Under current law, mandatory Compact Impact funding provided to the affected jurisdictions under U.S. Public Law 108-188, ends in fiscal year 2023. ***(OIA)***

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Friday, June 3, 2022

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022 AT 2:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes
    1. March 6, 2022 Regular Meeting
    2. May 12, 2022 Special Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director's Report
    1. Personnel/Administrative Matters
      a. Deliberation & Board Action on Comptroller's Employment Contract
      b. Deliberation & Board Action on Executive Assistant's Contract
      c. Deliberation & Board Action on Position Classification (Accounting)
    2. Loan Matter
      a. Deliberation & Board Action on the Estate of John DLG. Pangelinan
  B. Comptroller's Report
    1. CEDA & SSBCI Financial Reports
    2. Deliberation & Board Action on Delinquent Receivables' Write-Off
  C. Qualifying Certificate Program
    1. Deliberation & Board Action on Saipan Globe International Group Request for Modification
    2. Deliberation & Board Action on Marshall Holdings CNMI LLC Request for Modification
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. Board Adoption of the Amendment to the CEDA Board of Directors' By-laws.
  B. Deliberation & Board Action on the Policy Guidelines on Disposal of CEDA Foreclosed Properties
  C. Update on the Saipan, Tinian & Rota Properties
V. NEW BUSINESS
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ AUBRY M. HOCOG
Chairwoman

COMMONWEALTH CANCER ASSOCIATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / STATUS: PERMANENT-EXEMPT
SUPERVISED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POSITION(S) SUPERVISED: ALL EMPLOYEES
OPENING DATE: JUNE 3, 2022 CLOSING DATE: JUNE 17, 2022

MISSION STATEMENT: The Commonwealth Cancer Association's (CCA) mission is to advocate for a cancer-free CNMI through early detection, public education and awareness about cancer prevention and screening, and to provide hope and support for cancer patients, survivors, and their families through community partnerships and programs.

SUMMARY: The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CCA ensuring quality services, advocacy, solid financials, community education, public relations, and fundraising. The Executive Director works closely with the 7 members of the Board of Directors and assists both board and CCA committees as needed. The Executive Director assumes the primary leadership role for the CCA.

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Provides vision and leadership to fulfill the goals and mission of the organization.
- Assumes overall management responsibility for the operation and staffing of the programs and services.
- Oversees the day-to-day finances of the organization including, but not limited to: general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, budgeting, and payroll.
- Prepares the CCA budget and provides monthly and annual financial and program reports, as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors and funders.
- Oversees the management of all grant writing including: billing procedures, maintaining appropriate record-keeping systems for program and fiscal reporting, as required by the Board of Directors and local and federal funding sources.
- Implements, expands, and suggests changes in policies as organizational growth or program issues evolve.
- Plans and implements strategies to ensure stable and ongoing funding for the organization with the Board of Directors.
- Participates in advocacy activities on behalf of clients and health policies on the local, state, national,and global level.
- Utilizes community resources to ensure comprehensive services to the clients served.
- Orchestrates and/or performs public relations activities on behalf of the organization, including speaking engagements, media coverage, and community events.
- Maintains public presence as a speaker/presenter to service groups, professional groups, and other organizational meetings.
- Serves as liaison between CCA volunteers, staff, and Board of Directors.
- Participates with board committees to establish policies for agency programs, fiscal, and personnel matters.
- Serves as the primary fundraiser and spokesperson for the CCA.
- Maintains weekly or bi-monthly meetings with the President or Vice President to update on operations.
- Performs other work-related duties as required by the Board of Directors.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Self-motivated leadership skills.
- Ability to work well with others and supervise people.
- BA/BS, non-profit management, management, social work, or related field or 5 years equivalent management work experience preferred.
- Significant fundraising experience.
- Significant grant writing experience.
- Significant experience as a presenter and public speaker.
- Extensive knowledge of Word Suite.
- Proven successful supervisory and project management experience.
- The ability to communicate both orally and in writing, in a clear and concise manner.
- All applicants may be tested and subject to pre-employment drug tests.

All applicants may be tested and subject to pre-employment drug tests.

HOW TO APPLY:
You may email your resume to Ms. Nora S. Fejeran, Search Committee Chair, at norasablan@gmail.com or submit to the Commonwealth Cancer Association Office at the Gualo Rai Plaza Building, located along Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

"This JVA is being supported, in whole or in part, by CNMI Award Number: CNMI 22008, awarded to the Commonwealth Cancer Association by the CNMI Department of Finance."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Our country's cruel indifference to violence against children takes many forms

Children in the United States today live in a country where their lives, well-being and future are of little concern to many of the adults with the power and responsibility to protect them.

It's not just the acceptance of gun violence and the cowardly refusal to do anything to stop it. So many politicians in our country—mostly, but not all, Republicans—show cruel indifference to many other forces that hurt children, including poverty and the climate crisis.

Their actions show how little they care about the world they are leaving to future generations and how miserably they are failing at performing the most basic task of any guardian: protecting children from harm.

How so? It was the failure of adults in elected office to take an immediate and coordinated approach to contain the coronavirus, and the refusal of many so-called grown-ups to do something as simple as wear masks and get a vaccine, that led to wave after wave of infections that have killed 1 million people in the U.S. Though children were largely spared from the death toll, many lost parents, grandparents and other family members. Their education was a casualty too, with academic achievement and mental health suffering from remote learning and school closures that went on for far too long.

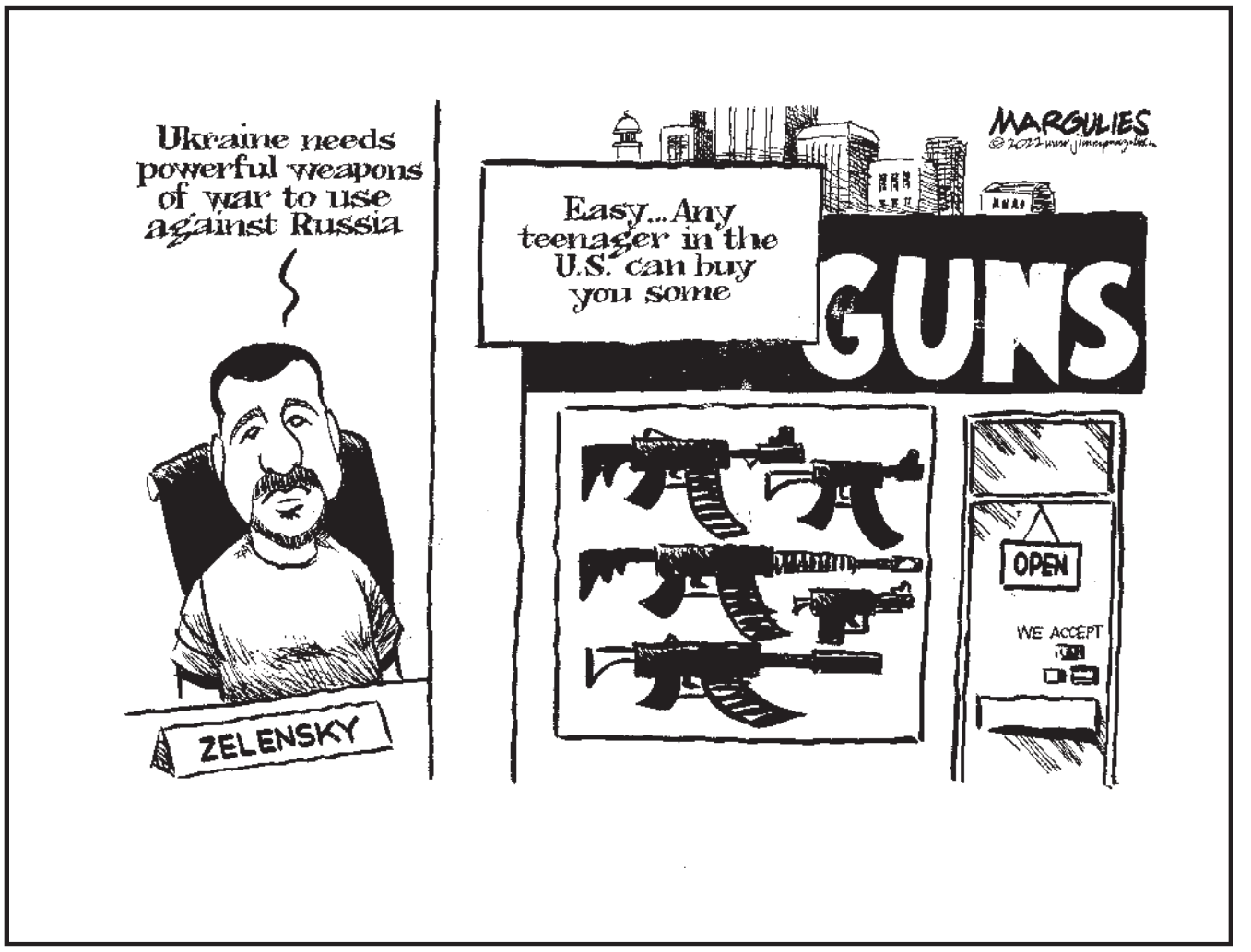
Those in power are doing practically nothing to slash air pollution that damages kids' lungs and threatens to leave them and future generations with a ruined planet. Worse, some of those standing in the way in Congress are profiting off the burning of fossil fuels that threatens the very survival of our children. Scientists say it is now "more likely than not" that global average temperatures will rise more than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit above pre-industrial levels, the destructive rise in temperature that world leaders have pledged to work to prevent. It could happen by 2030, or by the time a toddler today turns 10.

The Supreme Court appears poised to take away abortion rights and the ability of people to decide when and whether to bring a baby into this troubling world. But once children are born, too many elected leaders seem to have no interest in their welfare. Here are just two recent examples: In January, after giving children a lifeline through an expanded child tax credit that sent families automatic monthly payments of as much as $300 per child, Congress let it expire and allowed millions of American children to slide back into poverty. And in another shameful and avoidable crisis, federal authorities failed to prevent a shortage in the supply of formula, the most basic sustenance babies need for survival.

Most painful of all, some politicians have worked to allow virtually unfettered access to guns, giving just about anyone the ability to kill our children at school, church or synagogue, at the supermarket, the mall or at home. Firearm-related deaths have been rising in the U.S. in recent years, and in 2020, guns overtook motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of death among children and teenagers.

Many adults were still kids when a dozen students and a teacher were killed by gunfire at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999. At the time, a mass shooting at school seemed unthinkable. Now this kind of tragedy is a staple of

See COUNTRY on Next Page



Yes, we must address guns. But that's far from the only solution after Uvalde shooting

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia Allen joined the Star-Telegram *Editorial Board in 2014 after a decade of working in government and public affairs in Washington, D.C. She is a member of the Editorial Board and writes a weekly opinion column on a wide array of topics, including politics, faith and motherhood.*

In the aftermath of a tragedy like the elementary school massacre in Uvalde, when emotions and egos are running high, few of us have much wisdom to offer.

We have our anger, which even when justified is largely self-serving, and we have fingers to point, which we do without listening or considering where we might challenge our own priors instead of merely attacking others.

We have absurd and impossible solutions—Ban all guns! Arm all teachers!—to a morally and legally complex problem.

And yes, I'll say it: Guns are part of the problem.

Gun ownership may be an enshrined constitutional right, but rights come with responsibilities, especially to the most vulnerable among us. And when 19 innocent children are gunned down in an elementary school (not to mention those killed on the streets or by suicide every day), it's worth at least considering how our existing policies are not striking the right balance.

It should not be alienating to other conservatives to agree that we should restrict teenagers from purchasing high-caliber weapons, or limit the size of certain magazines, or pass red-flag laws that would keep potentially dangerous and unstable people from legally obtaining weapons.

We should have a robust debate on ways to close loopholes in background checks.

Some conservative leaders, such as Sen. John Cornyn, have made overtures in this direction. We need their leadership, and we need follow-through.

We can have a serious and sober discussion about better enforcement of existing laws, such as cracking down on straw purchases.

While most of these efforts would have had minimal impact (save the age restriction) on the mass shootings in Uvalde or Buffalo, New York, they might help around the edges at reducing gun deaths overall. And even that would be progress.

They might in some small way deter more young and troubled people from obtaining weapons that would ultimately result in self-harm or harm to others.

We won't know until we try.

But with 400 million guns already in circulation in the U.S., limiting access to firearms isn't a viable solution. Anyone who argues otherwise is living in a European fantasy.

And if Republicans are responsible for their failure to meaningfully engage on reasonable gun control measures, Democrats are guilty for their refusal to address the litany of other issues that contribute to a deteriorating culture. It alienates our youth, degrades trust in our institutions and makes rampant gun violence, like the horrors we've just experienced, ever more prevalent.

Many politicians who fought to keep schools closed and teens isolated for two years can't figure out why juvenile mental health has plummeted but violence among the same population has increased.

They don't understand that gun purchases surged during the Covid pandemic because faith in government was in rapid decline.

They refuse to acknowledge how fatherlessness and family breakdown exacerbate isolation and radicalization and destroy the social guardrails that keep kids from failing through the cracks.

How do we rebuild trust? Strengthen families? Address mental and emotional health?

None of these problems is easy to resolve.

They won't be addressed by expedient political fixes and theater or hashtag campaigns and social media posts.

And they won't be resolved if all we do is paint our ideological opponents as the enemy, without any intention of working with them to find solutions.

It's becoming clear the attack on Robb Elementary that resulted in so much carnage was at least exacerbated by school security failures and the utterly imcompetent response of local authorities. The coming weeks and months will require more than a review of what broke down on site.

We need a far deeper reckoning with what has broken down in our society that allows these tragedies to occur over and over again. Who is willing to do that?

We need wisdom that comes not from screaming but from listening.

Tourism improves our quality of life in the Marianas

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By RALPH DLG TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is the 9th governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the co-chairman of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.

Håfa *adai and tirow*! June is a pivotal time for the Marianas. Many positive developments are taking flight, from the return of visitors to the Marianas to the start of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games on June 17-25.

The Marianas also has a new airline, thanks to a joint venture between Saipan's MP Enterprises and Southern Airways Express, one of America's largest regional airlines. Marianas Southern Airlines announced it will be providing more than 90 flights a week between Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and Guam when service begins this summer. The new airline will provide the ease of transport that we've been needing and will take us a step closer to our goal of becoming a world-class multi-island destination.

For our residents, having access to more consistent connections will significantly improve our quality of life. It is exactly what we need to get moving and look ahead to a brighter tomorrow. The additional flights to Guam will provide residents and visitors with better connectivity to Asia and the U.S. On top of that, its new CNMI-based operation will create new jobs and contribute to our local economy. We thank Keith Stewart and his partners for their faith and investment in the Marianas and wish them great success!

The Japan market

We have been planning for a strong return of the tourism industry for quite some time. We've had success with the Korea Travel Bubble, and our team is aggressively working to secure a travel bubble with Japan. We are not shy about our goal of rebuilding the Japan market. We've had a good and longstanding relationship with Japan, and welcoming Japanese visitors back aligns with our goal of attracting more quality visitors.

We were a top destination for Japanese visitors at one time, and we can rebuild our standing as a destination of choice again. However, we can't wait to make bold moves. With the easing of border restrictions in Japan, the time is now to begin attracting visitors back to our shores while ensuring that we are ready to receive them.

Everything we do right now should support the return of the Japan market, while continuing to do what we can to grow the Korean market. I invite all our agencies and businesses in the Marianas to work together to get us ready. As stakeholders in the success of tourism, we can move mountains when we work together. Ultimately, our people will benefit from a thriving tourism industry.

Destination transformation

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership partners and community groups have completed many beautification projects these past two years. I thank them for their hard work and support. We are ready to take the next steps of getting major destination enhancement projects off the ground. In these next few months, we will focus on what we need to accomplish to meet the needs of our visitors.

Currently, the council is working with the Marianas Visitors Authority to repair the Bird Island Lookout railings, which have been worn down by the elements and are in dire need of repair. Bird Island Lookout is one of our top attractions, and this facelift will make our visitors' experiences more enjoyable and safer for everyone who visits this breathtaking site. We are all working against the clock to achieve great things, and we will be announcing more major destination transformation projects soon.

Developing a world-class destination

At our May GCEA meeting, co-chairmen of the Tourism Committee, Brian Shin, CEO of E-Land Group's Micronesia Resort Inc., and Warren Villagomez, COVID-19 Task Force chair and director of Public Health & Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program, shared some helpful data about what visitors think of the Marianas. As we aim to become a world-class destination—one that is clean, safe, beautiful, and provides good value, and has many attractions for visitors—one element is missing. Visitors have commented the Marianas doesn't provide enough for visitors to do after 7pm.

The presentation also noted that there is a great need to further develop Garapan's tourism offerings to include more attractions, activities, food and beverage offerings, golf and sports, shopping, spa, and cultural attractions. This is evident CNMI-wide.

Our major retailers T Galleria by DFS Saipan have reopened but it closes by 7pm, while I Love Saipan and the Joeten Shopping Center closes shortly after. With this data, I encourage all retailers to consider staying open later to appeal to our visitors.

As we take strides to rebuild the industry, I challenge our residents to be entrepreneurial-minded and work together to create quality, unforgettable experiences for our visitors. What benefits tourism always benefits our residents.

Happy Philippines Independence Day

As I close, June also marks a time to celebrate with our brothers and sisters from the Philippines. On Sunday, June 12, the Philippines will celebrate its independence from Spain in 1898. On behalf of first lady Diann Torres and my entire family, we celebrate with you and wish you a blessed holiday.

For more information about GCEA's programs, visit cnmieconomy.com, engage with the council on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

Don't be penny-wise on Ukraine

THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

By RICH LOWRY
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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Populist critics have gone after the new $40 billion in aid to Ukraine hammer and tongs. Donald Trump has complained that we are sending billions to Ukraine "yet America's parents are struggling to even feed their children." Republican Sen. Josh Hawley calls the assistance "unfocused globalism."

There's no doubt that $40 billion constitutes a vast sum, even in Washington, D.C., circa 2022, but the expenditure is warranted.

At the end of the day, there's no getting around the fact that it costs lots of money to support a country fighting a war in the 21st century against an advanced, if incompetent, military foe.

We would have saved tens of billions of dollars, at least initially, if we had never aided Ukraine and contented ourselves with letting Russia overrun it. But a victorious Putin would have posed a more direct threat to NATO. That would have caused an even bigger military build-up in the West than we are seeing now, and we would have been part of it, unless we were to decide to give up on our most important alliance.

The Ukraine war might be expensive, but it is the Ukrainians doing the fighting. They are degrading the military of an adversary of the United States and trying to push it away from NATO's borders without a single U.S. or Western soldier engaged in the fight. All things considered, this is a deal.

Nearly $9 billion of the package replenishes U.S. stockpiles after Biden sent U.S. weapons to Ukraine on an emergency basis using Presidential Drawdown Authority. It'd be perverse not to replenish our supplies of Javelins at this point in the name of economizing over Ukraine.

Likewise, several billion dollars in the package pay for the U.S. deployment of troops to NATO countries.

Part of the military aid is billions of dollars in financing for Ukraine and NATO countries to buy U.S. weapons, something that Trump has supported strongly in the past on "America First" grounds.

Indeed, it is strange that critics of the bills are invoking nationalism in their opposition. Hawley worries that the bill doesn't represent "a nationalist foreign policy."

By what definition? Assisting a sovereign country in defending its borders against a nation bent on restoring its imperial glory is a broadly nationalist project. So is resisting an adversary of the United States that, together with its de facto ally, China, wants to reduce our national power and influence, and end the preeminence of the U.S.-led Western world.

It's not as though the assistance keeps us from pursuing urgent domestic priorities. We don't have a baby formula shortage because we've sent too many weapons to Ukraine, and the shortage—in large part, a regulatory problem—would still exist if our new level of assistance to Ukraine were $0. The same is true with the border. Biden is not interested in the policies that might restore order there, which was true prior to the Ukraine war and will presumably be true after.

There's certainly more Europe could do, especially regarding general support for the Ukrainian government and food assistance to Ukraine and countries most affected by war-related disruptions. Our other allies who don't have an interest in taking sides between Ukraine and Russia should be providing food assistance, as well.

There should be no mistaking, though, that the stakes in the war are large. The outcome will profoundly affect the future of Ukraine, the robustness of the Western alliance, perhaps the nature of the Russian regime, and China's consideration of whether or not it is too risky to try to take Taiwan by force.

"Paris is worth a Mass," Henry of Navarre supposedly said before converting to Roman Catholicism and becoming king of France in the 16th century. Similarly, staving off Russia, and perhaps defeating it without firing a shot, is worth $40 billion.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Statement on recent China aggression in West Philippine Sea

The presence of the Chinese *Liaoning* aircraft carrier conducting high-intensity drills by the People's Liberation Army Navy in the West Philippine Sea is a blatant violation by China of international law, which they have been perpetrating for years.

For this reason, the National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea, a peaceful trans-global and non-partisan organization that advocates for the preservation of the Philippines' sovereignty and territorial integrity, stands on the grounds that:

(1) In alignment with the mission and goals of the NYMWPS, we vehemently condemn the continuous presence of the Chinese Coast Guard and other Chinese vessels in the West Philippine Sea. On July 12, 2016, the arbitral tribunal unequivocally awarded the Philippines sovereign rights within the 200 nautical miles of the West Philippine Sea;

(2) The presence of these Chinese military vessels does not reflect the friendship both our countries have committed to foster;

(3) We, thus, call on the various responsible agencies of the national government to soundly advise the incumbent and president-elect president to assert our sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea and to uphold the constitutional mandate to defend our territorial integrity and national interest; and

(4) The National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea has always maintained that sovereignty and sovereign rights are non-negotiable issues and that the Chinese vessels operating within our exclusive economic zone and territorial waters must be immediately expelled.

Dr. Celia Lamkin
Global chair and founder
National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea

COUNTRY

From Page 10

American life, an endless cycle of horror, grief and recurrence.

A decade ago a gunman killed 26 people at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn. But the adults in Congress, who promised to take action, did nothing to prevent it from happening again. And it did, this time at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

Once again, too many leaders' response to another massacre has been tragically insufficient: to offer prayers and condolences. To call for safety drills. To blame mental illness. But they won't even talk about limiting the guns that keep taking our children's lives.

Parents should be able to tell their children that they will be safe and believe that there is a limit to the amount of violence that U.S. leaders will tolerate. But we can't. And that's the most helpless feeling of all.

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MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL
CONGRATULATES HER GRADUATES

Class of 2022

Robin Kyle Manansala Alvarez
University of Arizona

Victoria Parnes Ancheta
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

William Nathaniel Espeleta Año
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Cristina Daon Bang
Korean University

Fiona Marielle Avengaña Bucalig
University of Arizona

Alyson Red Velarde Camacho
Northern Marianas College

Michael Canice Litulumar Camacho
Northern Marianas College

Jaeuk Choi
University of Guam

Kevin Daisuke Mihara Chong
United States Marine Corps

Pauline Alexandra Garcia Condino
Northern Marianas College

Larry Dean Tenorio Cruz
Seattle University

Jeremiah Jerome Hernandez Diaz
Park University

Lyndon Moleño Digno
University of Guam

Monique Laura Finuliar Duenas
Boise State University

Karvin Carl Fernando
United States Army

Christian Felix Cabrera Guerrero
University of Wisconsin-Madison

KwonJoon Ha
Stony Brook University

Regina Tura Huerto
South SEED LPDH College

Hyunjun Kim
Washington State University

JunBeom Kim
Fashion Institute of Technology

Jimin Kwon
Northern Marianas College

Hannah D. Lacap
Boise State University

Cory Lee
University of Guam

David Rui Li
Northern Marianas College

Francel Nouf M. Lumanlan
Northern Marianas College

Christopher Adam L. Mafnas
Northern Marianas College

Vaughn Andrei Abigania Mallari
United States Military

Ariel Sumiishi Morales
Northern Marianas College

Kindergarten Graduates

Aiden James Castro Dela Cruz
Alexandra Victoria Stuart
Angel Sofhia A. Pineda
Avalyn Mae Naputi Lizama
Bentley Ellaine Cabrera Santos
Chace Jaret Hamilton Tomokane
Chloe Jodia Borja Mostales
Damien Joel San Nicolas Pangelinan
Daria Shatskova
Dylan Jon Pangelinan
Ethan Robert Favor Dasalla
Eugene Jordan B. Tenorio
Francine Jaymee O. Pineda
Isaiah P. Villagomez
Jerome Jose Camacho Cruz
Jeyvon Jake C. Demapan
Joevoni Dre Tenorio Cruz
Joseph Junior Kamantigue Cruz II
Kaya Raine Reyes Camacho
Kelvin Cruz Fitial Jr.
Kyle Ethen Arnold Cortez
Landon Jay Cotin Pangelinan
Leihani'Lyn Faith Kikku Reyes
Leland Jay Ogumoro-Kintol
Liam Tasi Santos Ehsa
Liv Mariana Reyes Taijeron
Logan Jesus Tenorio
Makenna Lei Cabrera Pangelinan
Miyah Eloize Mwaariyeel P. Kaipat
Nayson Lanz Guiao Seng
Rhianna Kay G. Kautz
Vince Babauta Sablan, Jr.
Vyron Andrew Rivera Estella
Xander James Camacho Lieto
Yanbin Jacob Cui
Zhane Graeson V. Jugos

Hyun Namkung
University of Guam

Chelsea Taylor Palacios Olouachel
Northern Marianas College

Sajj Pandey
Johnson County Community College

Hyunkyu Park
New York University

Kiana Lei Manglona Propst
Northern Marianas College

Jihwan Ryu
Korean University

Vidal Jose Borja Sablan
Northern Marianas College

Aleia Carlinne Hofschneider Santos
University of Washington

Theresa Rose Cano Schweiger
West Chester University

Haani Skylar Tomokane Seman
Northern Marianas College

Jefferey Yue Sheu
Boston University

Raesyl Gerard Lopez Solis
Grand Canyon University

Yu Jeong Son
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Richard Ramon Pico Steele
Walla Walla Washington

Warrick Taylor Atalig Tagabuel
United States Navy

Joshua Donovan Camacho Tenorio
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Margarita Leighanna Sanchez Terlaje
Northern Marianas College

Vincent Ogo Torres III
Boise State University

Merrick Vicente Attao Toves
Richmond International Academics and Soccer Academy

Jennalyn Rose Z. Travilla
Northern Marianas College

Kaia De Jesus Travilla
Northern Marianas College

Gayle Noreen Habaluyas Vidal
Northern Marianas College

Richard Jesus Mafnas Villagomez
University of California, Berkeley

Jedric Nathaniel Cruz Villar
Montclair State University

8th Grade Graduates

Ainsley Parnes Ancheta
Alexandria Ysabelle Dysangco
Andrick Poon
Annieskha F. Arreza
Anthony Christian Encarnacion Rivera
Arwen Hannah N. Bartolata
Asa Vanessa Backe
Ayanna Faith Hernandez Matsumoto
Camron Zavier Santos Pangelinan
Chae Eun Kim
Draven John Crisostimo Tudela
Edsel Benedict A. Pagtalunan
Elise Furey Maratita
Eloy Thomas Inos Deleon Guerrero
Emmanuel Cruzat Pontiveros
Frannie Itibus Ramon
Gavril Myles Ritumalta Santiago
Geoff Ian Albano Castro
Heleyna Frielle Cruz Dela Santa
Israel Betonio De Leon Jr
Jasmine Meleana Villagomez Deleon Guerrero
Jesse John Benavente Aldan II
Jessiana Borja Tenorio
Joseph Brandon Reyes Pangelinan
June Yu
Jyler Brent Fujihira Villar
Kahi F. Cepeda
Kate Nicole A. Cabalbag
Kayli Ari Salas
Kern Han
Kwon, Jieun
Lance Jericho Albuen Javier
Leonard Jake B. Regalado
Luis Reid Castro Manibusan
Michael Q. Mercado Jr.
Mikaehla Paige Reyes Mendoza
Mikayla Ikeda Castro
Mya AnnDrew Eve DLG. Pangelinan
Nyla-Jordan Nie Deleon Guerrero
Oh Ye Eun
Oscar Bien Reyes Buenaflor
Patricia Denielle Guillo Lugtu
Peige Morgan N. Tomokane
Quince Emanuele Olanda Tizon
Quinn Thomas B. Palacios
Riana Joy P. Travilla
Seunghee Jeon
Sophia Joshabelle Tenorio
Sophia Miley Olopai Rabauliman
Therese Joy Obongen Ogo
Valerie Anne Rivera Estella
Victor Nash Maniego Santos
Vivica Jewels Dueñas Kapileo
William Matthew B. Cano
Zion Jude Cing Cabrera

Tina and Leila vow to make small business a big priority

The Northern Marianas Democratic Party's candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, Reps. Christina "Tina" Sablan (D-Saipan) and Leila Fleming Staffler (D-Saipan), who said that small businesses are a big priority for them, thanked the small business owners who recently joined them for conversations over coffee to share their experiences and their ideas for making the Marianas a better place for small businesses.

The meetings, held in May, were the first in the "Coffee with the Candidates" series hosted by the two candidates.

"Small businesses are the backbone of a healthy economy, and helping them thrive will be a priority in the Sablan-Staffler administration," Sablan said. "One of the first changes we promise small business owners is that they will get attention at the highest levels of our government. Leila and I will form a Small Business Council that will advise us on policies affecting small businesses in the Marianas."

Small businesses are central to the Sablan-Staffler platform for economic development. In addition to appointing a Small Business Council, their plans include increasing local participation in the tourism industry; creating a collaborative network of resources to help island entrepreneurs jumpstart, expand, and promote their businesses; retooling existing programs such as the qualifying certificate program, free trade zones, and CNMI product seals to better support local businesses and encourage new investment and small business growth; and implementing a "Buy Local" policy for government purchasing and contracting.

Sablan

Staffler

Sablan and Staffler also discussed with small business owners the CNMI's workforce issues and the proposal to update the CNMI's wage laws and incrementally raise the minimum wage to $10 per hour over four years.

"We understand there are concerns about how minimum wage increases could impact small businesses," Sablan said. "The business owners we met urged for more data collection and outreach, and some suggested a more gradual schedule of increases." She added that there was general agreement about changing other parts of the CNMI's wage laws, such as provisions that discriminate against people with disabilities, and that make it difficult for employees to pursue claims for unpaid wages.

"We know there is so much we can do to make the Marianas a better place to live, work, and do business," Sablan said. "And we look forward to having more meetings like these coffee sessions in the coming weeks and months."

Expanding and accelerating the government's transition to online services and improving the level of customer service that the public experiences when they deal with government agencies are also key objectives for the two. During the coffee sessions, small business owners consistently expressed frustration with having to drive all over the island to different offices and stand in line for hours to submit documents, make payments, or get answers to simple questions. They described phone calls to government agencies going unanswered or unreturned, and licenses or permits being delayed because one key person was out of the office and no one else was authorized or trained to provide the service.

"Cross-training employees and making government processes easier and more accessible online would save these small businesses—and other members of the public—valuable time that they would otherwise spend waiting in line or on the phone," Staffler said. "Time is money, and people could put that time to better use growing their businesses and creating jobs."

Sablan's and Staffler's platform outlines their vision for a government that is more responsive to the needs of constituents, and staffed by well-trained, ethical, and professional public servants. "We aim to create a culture in government that values excellent service, and continuous improvement," Staffler said. "And we will start by requiring training in customer service, government ethics, the Open Government Act, and workplace rights for all Cabinet members, board appointees, and employees of the Executive Branch."

For more information about the "Coffee with the Candidates" series, or to request a meeting with Sablan and Staffler, email outreach@sablanstaffler.com or call 670-484-DEMS. To view their platform and learn more about the campaign, visit www.sablanstaffler.com. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CPA-RA-003-17, on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Drainage Improvement Project, CPA-RA-003-17"*** and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of sewer pipe replacement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Terminal including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **SEVENTY-FIVE U.S. DOLLARS ($75.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings in the plans.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Maintenance/Custodian Supervisor's office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Ms. Sharlene Manglona, CPA's Rota Ports Manager at email address sharlene.manglona@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 532-9497, during regular working hours.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **Five-Hundred U.S. Dollars ($500.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 11, 2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-19

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GENERAL AIRPORT TYPHOON YUTU FENCE REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the procurement, furnishing and installation of chain link fencing and accessories (commercial and industrial grades), for the installation and general Typhoon Yutu repair/replacement work of its chain-link fences per this Scope of Work and associated Contract Documents, located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Project shall be in compliance with all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations. This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225.

The CPA Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an invitation for bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because CPA wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone, or that factors other than price, such as technical expertise and/or the quality of materials, should be considered in determining the successful contractor.

Proposals shall be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2ND floor of the Arriver Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of CPA.

Contractors are requested to submit one original and four (4) copies of their proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for General Airport Typhoon Yutu Fence Repairs and Replacements, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-003-19".**

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Accounting Office upon payment of **$50.00** per package. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeds what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. Criteria for scoring proposals and proposal submission requirements are detailed in the Proposal Requirement section of the SOW.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director, Christopher S. Tenorio, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the proposal submission date. Contractors are welcome to inspect the facilities that are not within any secured locations; however, site visits for the Air Traffic Control Tower and ARFF Training Facility should be coordinated with Ms. Prater at telephone number 670-237-6500 or via the email address written above.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Therefore, proposers and their subcontractors must hold their proposal prices in effect for up to 180 calendar days.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 13, 2022

June is CNMI Pride Month

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI joined the rest of the world last Wednesday in celebrating the month of June as Pride Month, with a proclamation signing at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe that was witnessed by members of the CNMI's LGBTQIA+ community, families, friends, and allies.

Fr. Michael Linden of the Society of Jesus, Dr. Jennifer Maratita, and inspirational speakers Philip C. Aldan and Roberto Santos, joined Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in signing the proclamation before members and supporters of Pride Marianas Youth and other members of the community.

The theme of Pride Month this year is "Pride in Paradise - Rise Above, Lead with Love."

In line with the occasion, the pavilion was decorated with a motley of colorful and bright flags of the LGBTQIA+ spectrum.

The proclamation states that "every month and every year is the right time to shut the door on prejudice, discrimination, and ignorance. … We choose love that sees no bounds. We Rise Above, And Lead with Love."

Dr. Jennifer Maratita, who is a co-founder of Pride Marianas Youth, a volunteer grassroots organization of family, friends, allies and members of the LGBTQIA+ community, said that Pride Month is near and dear to her heart. "My husband and I are proud parents of a child who identifies as transgender. There have been many struggles over the years and there will be more challenges to come. However, today, we celebrate. Today we are proud," she said.

Supporters attend the proclamation signing Wednesday morning at the Minachom Atdao. LEIGH GASES

Philip C. Aldan was the first inspirational speaker at the CNMI Pride Month proclamation singing Wednesday morning at the Minachom Atdao LEIGH GASES

Dr. Jennifer Maratita delivers the welcoming remarks at the CNMI Pride Month proclamation signing Wednesday morning at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion LEIGH GASES

Gov. Ralph Torres signs the proclamation declaring June as CNMI Pride Month Wednesday morning at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion as, from left, Fr. Michael Linden and inspirational speakers Philip Aldan and Roberto Santos applaud. LEIGH GASES

Roberto Santos was the second inspirational speaker at the CNMI Pride Month proclamation signing at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion Wednesday morning LEIGH GASES

One of the inspirational speakers, Aldan, recounts that his story "is on the brighter side of others, but there are still so many people out there who are struggling to come out."

Santos described pride as many things—"It is protest, it is fight, it is deep. It is standing up, and it is, yes, celebration. This month is for us."

After the signing, Torres said he has always been a great supporter of the LGBTQIA+ community "and I thank you for everything you've done. …I know that we have a long way to go, absolutely. But we also got to acknowledge we have gone so far, by coming out accepting everyone that we can, and that it's okay."

Torres was the first CNMI governor to proclaim Pride Month back in 2016 and held the first virtual proclamation in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Jie, Shuang Fu
P.O. Box 504996
483-7998

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JIE, SHUANG FU PETITIONER	:	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0194
VS. RESPONDENT	:	ORDER SHORTENING TIME AND NOTICE OF HEARING

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, it is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner's petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on June 22, 2022 at 1:30p.m. in Courtroom 217A.

Dated this 23rd day of May, 2022.

/s/ Judge

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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Website: https://cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2022

Opening date: May 16, 2022 **Closing date: June 03, 2022**

Positions: **SAIPAN:**
(1) Custodial-I

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than ***5:00P.M. on Friday, June 03, 2022***.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 007 **Opening Date: May 26, 2022**
Closing Date: June 09, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non -Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: o Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

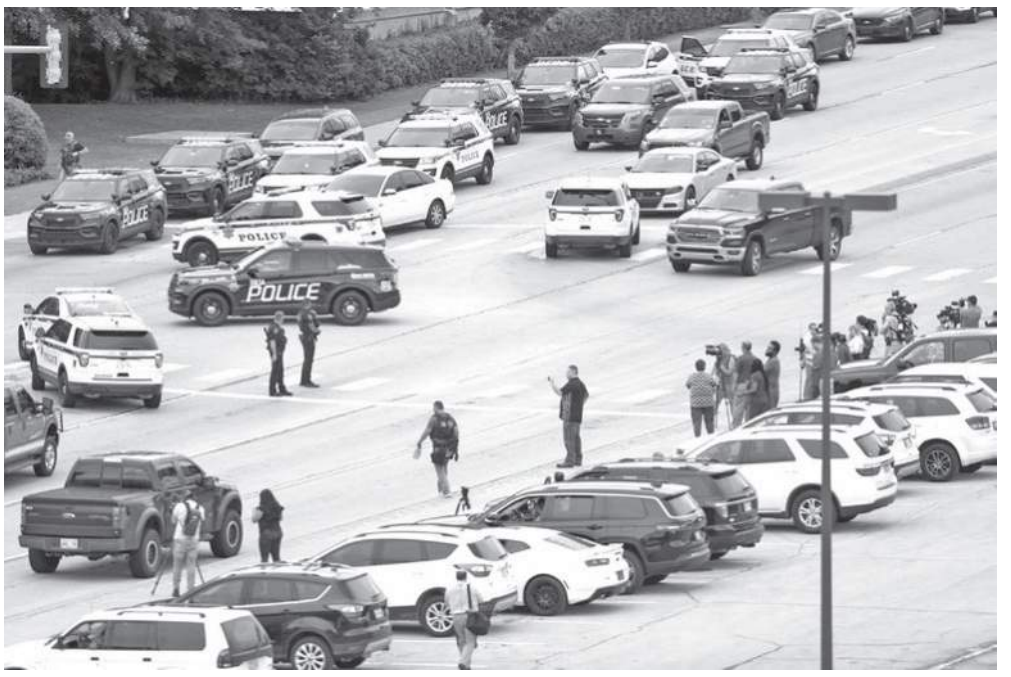
How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

PP. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Nation

Four killed in shooting at Tulsa medical building, shooter dead

By SEAN MURPHY and TERRY WALLACE
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Tulsa police respond to a shooting at the Natalie Medical Building Wednesday, June 1, 2022. in Tulsa, Okla.
AP

A gunman carrying a rifle and a handgun killed four people Wednesday at a Tulsa medical building on a hospital campus, police said, the latest in a series of deadly mass shootings across the country in recent weeks.

Tulsa Police Department Deputy Chief Eric Dalgleish confirmed the number of dead and said the shooter also was dead, apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The spate of recent gun violence across the country, including the killing of 19 children and two teachers at a Texas elementary school eight days ago by an 18-year-old gunman carrying an AR-style semi-automatic rifle, has led to Democratic leaders amplifying their calls for greater restrictions on guns, while Republicans are emphasizing more security at schools.

The divide mirrors a partisan split that has stymied action in Congress and many state capitols over how best to respond to a record-high number of gun-related deaths in the U.S.

It was unclear what prompted the deadly assault in Tulsa, Dalgleish said.

"It appears both weapons at one point or another were fired on the scene," Dalgleish said. "The officers who arrived were hearing shots in the building, and that's what led them to the second floor."

Police responded to the call about three minutes after dispatchers received the report at 4:52 p.m. and made contact with the gunman roughly five minutes later, at 5:01 p.m. Dalgleish said.

"I was very happy with what we know so far regarding the response of our officers," Dalgleish said.

The length of time it took police officers in Uvalde, Texas, to engage the gunman during last week's deadly shooting at Robb Elementary School has become a key focus of that investigation. Officers waited over an hour to breach the classroom where the gunman attacked.

Police Capt. Richard Meulenberg also said multiple people were wounded and that the medical complex was a "catastrophic scene." The exact number of wounded was not immediately available.

Police and hospital officials said they were not ready to identify the dead.

St. Francis Health System locked down its campus Wednesday afternoon because of the situation at the Natalie Medical Building. The Natalie building houses an outpatient surgery center and a breast health center. Dalgleish said an orthopedic clinic also is located on the second floor where officers discovered the shooter and several victims.

"This campus is sacred ground for our community," said Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum. "For decades, this campus has been a place where heroes come to work every day to save the lives of people in our community."

Bynum added: "Right now, my thoughts are with the victims. If we want to have a policy discussion, that is something to be had in the future, but not tonight."

Uvalde school police chief says he's still cooperating

By JIM VERTUNO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The school district police chief who served as on-site commander during last week's deadly shooting in Uvalde, Texas, said Wednesday that he's talking daily with investigators, contradicting claims from state law enforcement that he has stopped cooperating.

In a brief interview, Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District Police Chief Pete Arredondo told CNN that he's speaking regularly with Texas Department of Public Safety investigators.

"I've been on the phone with them every day," Arredondo said. The chief has been the focus of ire in the community and beyond over allegations that he delayed sending officers into the school on May 24, believing that the gunman was barricaded inside adjoining classrooms and the shooting had morphed into a hostage situation.

Nineteen children and two teachers died in the attack at Robb Elementary School, the deadliest school shooting in nearly a decade. Funerals began this week, and U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona attended Wednesday's services for teacher Irma Garcia, who was killed in the attack, and her husband, Joe Garcia, who died of a heart attack two days later.

The district announced Wednesday that students and staff would not return to that campus, though plans were still being finalized on where the less than 600 students would attend classes in the fall.

Texas state Sen. Roland Gutierrez said Wednesday that his office is working with state and federal agencies to request upwards of $45 million in federal funding for the school.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, its School Emergency Response to Violence, known as Project SERV, "funds short-term education-related services" to help educational facilities "recover from a violent or traumatic event in which the learning environment has been disrupted."

House panel taking up gun bill in wake of mass shootings

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House is beginning to put its stamp on gun legislation in response to mass shootings in Texas and New York by 18-year-old assailants who used semi-automatic rifles to kill 31 people, including 19 children.

The House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing Thursday to advance legislation that would raise the age limit for purchasing a semi-automatic centerfire rifle from 18 to 21. The bill would make it a federal offense to import, manufacture or possess large-capacity magazines and would create a grant program to buy back such magazines. It also builds on the executive branch's ban on bump-stock devices and so-called ghost guns that are privately made without serial numbers.

The Democratic legislation, called the Protecting Our Kids Act, was quickly added to the legislative docket after last week's school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. A vote by the full House could come as early as next week.

With Republicans nearly in lockstep in their opposition, the House action will mostly be symbolic, serving to put lawmakers on record about gun control ahead of this year's elections. The Senate is taking a different course, with a bipartisan group striving toward a compromise on gun safety legislation that can win enough GOP support to become law.

But Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, the Democratic chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, defends the proposals as being popular with Americans. He says it's time for Congress to act.

"You say that it is too soon to take action? That we are 'politicizing' these tragedies to enact new policies?" Nadler said in prepared remarks for Thursday's hearing obtained by The Associated Press. "It has been 23 years since Columbine. Fifteen years since Virginia Tech. Ten years since Sandy Hook. Seven years since Charleston. Four years since Parkland and Santa Fe and Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh."

He added: "Too soon? My friends, what the hell are you waiting for?"

Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the ranking Republican on the committee, told Fox News he'll press his GOP colleagues to oppose the bill.

"I'm going to do everything I can to encourage my colleagues to oppose this … hodgepodge of bills that I don't think would have made one difference in tragedies that we've seen recently," Jordan said.

Any legislative response to the Uvalde and Buffalo, New York, shootings will have to get through the evenly divided Senate, where support from at least 10 Republicans would be needed to advance the measure to a final vote. A group of senators has been working behind the scenes this week in hopes of finding a consensus.

ACROSS THE NATION

Chicago officer critically hurt when shots fired into car

CHICAGO (AP)—A Chicago police officer was taken to a hospital in critical condition Wednesday after she was shot while attempting to make a traffic stop on the city's South Side, authorities said. In a news conference at the University of Chicago Medical Center, police Supt. David Brown said at 5:42 p.m., two uniformed officers were in a marked squad car attempting a traffic stop the West Englewood neighborhood. The car the officers were trying to pull over first sped up, and then slowed down to pull even with the squad car, Brown said. At that point, someone in the car started firing a gun at the officers. The officer who was driving was shot and wounded in her upper body, Brown said. The officer who had been in the passenger seat drove the wounded officer to the hospital. The wounded officer was in critical but stable condition, Brown said. Her name hasn't been released.

Former Corinthian students get federal student debt erased

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of students who attended the for-profit Corinthian Colleges chain will automatically get their federal student loans canceled, the Biden administration announced, a move that aims to bring closure to one of the most notorious cases of fraud in American higher education. Under the new action, anyone who attended the now-defunct chain from its founding in 1995 to its collapse in 2015 will get their federal student debt wiped clean. It will erase $5.8 billion in debt for more than 560,000 borrowers, the largest single loan discharge in Education Department history, according to the agency. "As of today, every student deceived, defrauded and driven into debt by Corinthian Colleges can rest assured that the Biden-Harris Administration has their back and will discharge their federal student loans," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said Wednesday. "For far too long, Corinthian engaged in the wholesale financial exploitation of students, misleading them into taking on more and more debt to pay for promises they would never keep."

As gas prices soar, Biden leans toward visiting Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden is leaning towards making a visit to Saudi Arabia—a trip that would likely bring him face-to-face with the Saudi crown prince he once shunned as a killer. The White House is weighing a visit to Saudi Arabia that would also include a meeting of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) as well as Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, according to a person familiar with White House planning. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the yet-to-be finalized plans. It comes at a moment when overriding U.S. strategic interests in oil and security have pushed the administration to rethink the arms-length stance that Biden pledged to take with the Saudis as a candidate for the White House. Any meeting between Biden and de facto Saudi ruler Prince Mohammed bin Salman during a Biden visit to the Middle East could offer hope of some relief for U.S. gasoline consumers.

Off The Wall

Janitor corrals curious cougar in empty California classroom

PESCADERO, Calif. (AP)—A quick-thinking custodian safely confined a curious cougar in an empty classroom after it entered a Northern California high school Wednesday morning, authorities said.

The custodian was opening Pescadero High for the school day when the juvenile mountain lion was spotted, said Detective Javier Acosta with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. No students or teachers were on campus at the time, Acosta said.

"The mountain lion casually walked through campus and decided to go into an English classroom," he said. "The custodian acted quickly and managed to shut the door behind it."

Acosta said the animal, estimated to be about 40 pounds (18 kilos), appeared "lost and scared."

AP

This photo provided by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office shows a mountain lion after it entered an empty high school classroom in Pescadero, Calif., Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife tranquilized the cat and sent it to the Oakland Zoo for examination.

The underweight male was estimated to be 4 to 6 months old and had a fractured tooth that will need to be extracted before the cat can be released back into the wild, KTVU-TV reported.

Pescadero is a small coastal community about 35 miles (56 kilometers) south of San Francisco.

World's largest plant is vast seagrass meadow

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists have discovered the world's largest plant off the Australia coast—a seagrass meadow that has grown by repeatedly cloning itself.

Genetic analysis has revealed that the underwater fields of waving green seagrass are a single organism covering 70 square miles (180 square kilometers) through making copies of itself over 4,500 years.

The research was published Wednesday in Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

Scientists confirmed that the meadow was a single organism by sampling and comparing the DNA of seagrass shoots across the bed, wrote Jane Edgeloe, a study co-author and marine biologist at the University of Western Australia.

A variety of plants and some animals can reproduce asexually. There are disadvantages to being clones of a single organism—such as increased susceptibility to diseases—but "the process can create 'hopeful monsters'" by enabling rapid growth, the researchers wrote.

The scientists call the meadow of Poseidon's ribbon weed "the most widespread known clone on Earth," covering an area larger than Washington.

Though the seagrass meadow is immense, it's vulnerable. A decade ago, the seagrass covered an additional seven square miles, but cyclones and rising ocean temperatures linked to climate change have recently killed almost a tenth of the ancient seagrass bed.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

California man, 78, gets high school diploma 6 decades later

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—For 60 years, Ted Sams regretted missing his high school graduation. Now 78, Sams can finally call himself a graduate after donning a cap and gown and receiving his diploma Friday with the class of 2022 at Southern California's San Gabriel High School. Back in 1962 when he was a high school senior, Sams got in trouble and was suspended five days before the end of the school year. He said he missed a crucial final exam and had to make it up over the summer. "When I went back with my grade, they wouldn't give me my diploma because I owed $4.80 for a book," Sams told KABC-TV. "And so I just walked away and said forget it." The school still had Sams' original diploma locked away in an old filing cabinet. He beamed as he walked across the graduation stage at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena and received the diploma. "Over the years, I complained to my kids a number of times about how $4.80 kept me from having my diploma," he said.

Can I talk to a human? Spain presents customer service bill

MADRID (AP)—Tired of speaking to a machine when you call the bank or power company?

Spain's government wants to end those nerve-shattering, one-sided conversations with a computerized answering service by making it obligatory for companies to offer a real, flesh-and-blood customer service worker when so requested by a caller. That is one among a battery of measures included in a customer service bill presented by Spain's left-wing coalition government on Tuesday. The bill will need the approval of Spain's Parliament before it can become law. "Customer service is a critical part of our relations with consumers which unfortunately and far too often causes endless headaches for Spanish families because far too many companies create bureaucratic labyrinths to stop you from exercising your right to service," said Consumption Minister Alberto Garzón. "These are difficulties which unfortunately waste an enormous among of energy, time and money." The bill would also seek to do away with long wait times by forcing companies to answer calls within three minutes.

World

US, Germany agree to provide advanced weapons to Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—The U.S. and Germany pledged Wednesday to equip Ukraine with some of the advanced weapons it has long desired for shooting down aircraft and knocking out artillery, as Russian forces closed in on capturing a key city in the east.

Germany said it will supply Ukraine with up-to-date anti-aircraft missiles and radar systems, while the U.S. announced it will provide four sophisticated, medium-range rocket systems and ammunition.

The U.S. is trying to help Ukraine fend off the Russians without triggering a wider war in Europe. The Pentagon said it received assurances that Ukraine will not fire the new rockets into Russian territory.

The Kremlin accused the U.S. of "pouring fuel on the fire."

Western arms have been critical to Ukraine's success in stymieing Russia's much larger and better-equipped military, thwarting its effort to storm the capital and forcing Moscow to shift its focus to the industrial Donbas region in the east.

But as Russia bombards towns in its inching advance in the east, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has repeatedly pleaded for more and better weapons and accused the West of moving too slowly.

Andriy Yermak, the head of the Ukrainian president's office, hailed the new Western weapons.

"I'm sure that if we receive all the necessary weapons and strengthen the efficient sanctions regime we will win," he said.

The new arms could help Ukraine set up and hold new lines of defense in the east by hitting back at Russian artillery pieces that have been battering towns and cities and by limiting Russian airstrikes, said retired French Gen. Dominique Trinquand, a former head of France's military mission at the United Nations.

"The NATO countries—the European nations and the Americans—have progressively escalated the means that they are putting at Ukraine's disposal, and this escalation, in my opinion, has had the aim of testing Russian limits," he said. "Each time, they measure the Russian reaction, and since there is no reaction, they keep supplying increasingly effective and sophisticated weaponry."

WORLD BRIEFS

WHO believes COVID getting worse, not better in North Korea

LONDON (AP)—A top official at the World Health Organization said the U.N. health agency assumes the coronavirus outbreak in North Korea is "getting worse, not better," despite the secretive country's recent claims that COVID-19 is slowing there. At a briefing on Wednesday, WHO's emergencies chief Dr. Mike Ryan appealed to North Korean authorities for more information about the COVID-19 outbreak there, saying "we have real issues in getting access to the raw data and to the actual situation on the ground." He said WHO has not received any privileged information about the epidemic—unlike in typical outbreaks when countries may share more sensitive data with the organization so it can evaluate the public health risks for the global community. "It is very, very difficult to provide a proper analysis to the world when we don't have access to the necessary data," he said. WHO has previously voiced concerns about the impact of COVID-19 in North Korea's population, which is believed to be largely unvaccinated and whose fragile health systems could struggle to deal with a surge of cases prompted by the super-infectious omicron and its subvariants.

UN peacekeeping convoy attacked in Mali -- 1 killed, 3 hurt

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A U.N. peacekeeping convoy was attacked by suspected terrorists in northern Mali on Wednesday and a Jordanian peacekeeper was killed and three other Jordanians were wounded, the United Nations said. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the supply convoy was under sustained fire for about an hour from attackers who used small arms and rocket launchers. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned the attack and sent deepest condolences to the families of the peacekeepers and the government and people of Jordan, Dujarric said. According to the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mali, the attack was the fifth incident in the northern Kidal region in just one week, Dujarric said.

Earthquakes kill 4 people, damage houses in southwest China

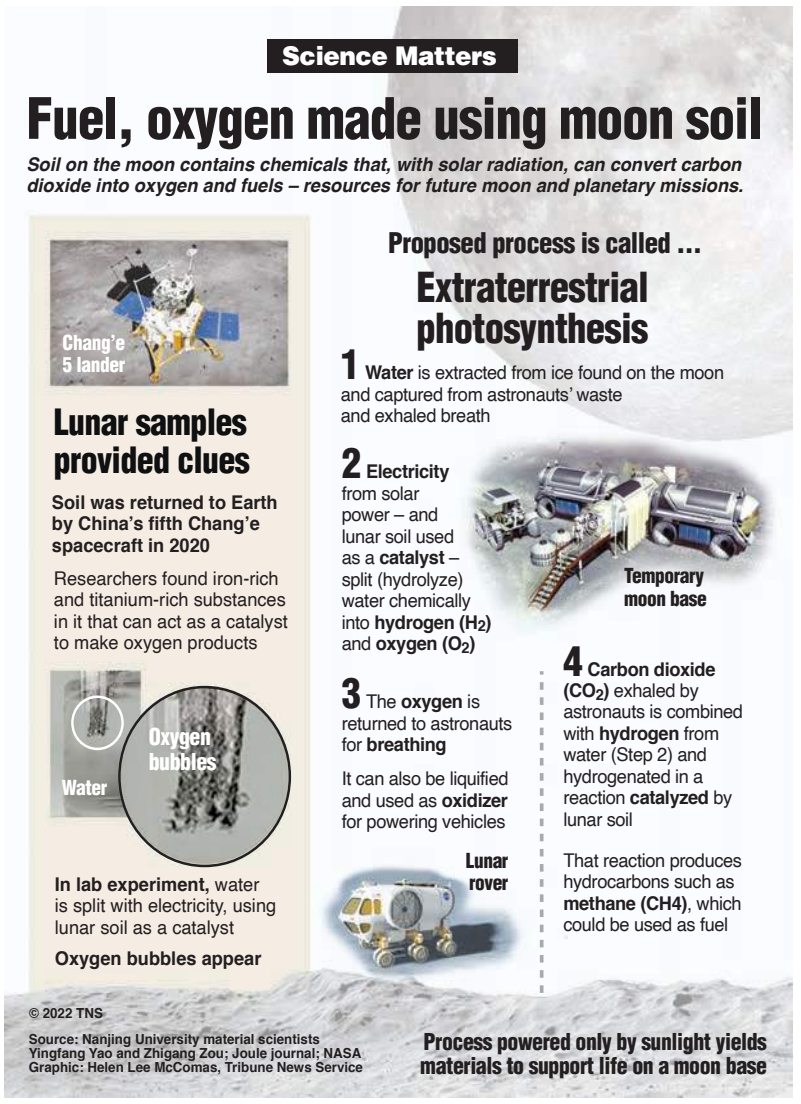
BEIJING (AP)—Two earthquakes killed at least four people and damaged houses in southwestern China on Wednesday, authorities and state media said. Fourteen other people were injured, at least one seriously, state broadcaster CCTV said in an online report. All of the dead and injured were in Baoxing county in Sichuan province. Those killed were hit by falling rocks, the earthquake relief headquarters in Ya'an city said, adding that the injured were sent to hospitals for treatment. A magnitude 6.1 quake struck at a depth of 17 kilometers (10 miles) in Ya'an, about 110 kilometers (65 miles) southwest of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan, the China Earthquake Network Center said. A magnitude 4.5 quake followed three minutes later, Xinhua News Agency said. The Sichuan fire department said some houses were damaged and more than 1,400 rescuers were headed to the area. The Southwest Railway Authority said some sections of track were closed, causing delays to passenger trains.

Over 50 injured in fire at Alzheimer home in Czech Republic

PRAGUE (AP)—A fire broke out Wednesday evening at a nursing home that takes care of people suffering from Alzheimer disease in the Czech Republic, injuring more than 50. The regional rescue service said ladders were used to evacuated 56 patients from the home in Roztoky, a town just north of Prague. A total of 54 were injured, with two in critical condition, the rescuers said. Almost 100 firefighters were battling the blaze. "Fortunately, we have no reports of deaths," said Petra Peckova, the head of the regional government. It was not immediately clear what caused the fire.

Science & Technology

Here's how the government wants to disaster-proof your home


Science Matters
Fuel, oxygen made using moon soil
Soil on the moon contains chemicals that, with solar radiation, can convert carbon dioxide into oxygen and fuels – resources for future moon and planetary missions.
Chang'e 5 lander
Lunar samples provided clues
Soil was returned to Earth by China's fifth Chang'e spacecraft in 2020
Researchers found iron-rich and titanium-rich substances in it that can act as a catalyst to make oxygen products
Water
Oxygen bubbles
In lab experiment, water is split with electricity, using lunar soil as a catalyst
Oxygen bubbles appear
Proposed process is called …
Extraterrestrial photosynthesis
1 Water is extracted from ice found on the moon and captured from astronauts' waste and exhaled breath
2 Electricity from solar power – and lunar soil used as a catalyst – split (hydrolyze) water chemically into hydrogen (H_2) and oxygen (O_2)
Temporary moon base
3 The oxygen is returned to astronauts for breathing
It can also be liquified and used as oxidizer for powering vehicles
Lunar rover
4 Carbon dioxide (CO_2) exhaled by astronauts is combined with hydrogen from water (Step 2) and hydrogenated in a reaction catalyzed by lunar soil
That reaction produces hydrocarbons such as methane (CH4), which could be used as fuel
© 2022 TNS
Source: Nanjing University material scientists Yingfang Yao and Zhigang Zou; Joule journal; NASA
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
Process powered only by sunlight yields materials to support life on a moon base

MIAMI (AP)—On this first day of the Atlantic hurricane season, federal officials are launching a new initiative to modernize building codes so that communities can be more resilient to hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, and other extreme weather events that are intensifying due to climate change.

Deanne Criswell, the administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Ali Zaidi, the deputy national climate adviser to President Joe Biden, discussed the initiative Wednesday during a briefing at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, where recovering from a hit similar to Hurricane Andrew could cost hundreds of billions today.

Updated building codes provide a range of smart design and construction methods "that save lives, reduce property damage, and lower utility bills," according to a news release announcing the National Initiative to Advance Building Codes. It applies to new construction and to homes and buildings that are rebuilt due to damage.

"The adoption of hazard-resistant building codes saves communities $11 per every $1 invested," Criswell said, citing a finding by the National Institute of Building Sciences.

The initiative, approved by the National Climate Task Force earlier this year, comes amid signs that coastal communities should brace themselves for more intense storms. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted 14 to 21 named storms in the Atlantic this season, with six to 10 becoming hurricanes and three to six turbo-charging into major hurricanes with winds greater than 110 mph (177 kph).

It's already begun with Agatha, a storm that battered Mexico over the past few days and may re-form in the Gulf of Mexico and possibly threaten parts of Florida by this weekend, the hurricane center said.

"This initiative is proof that acting on climate change delivers countless benefits to all Americans, especially in our most vulnerable communities," said Gina McCarthy, the president's national climate adviser.

The program is designed to help buildings withstand damage caused by all natural disasters, including wildfires, tornadoes and floods.

The codes ensure, for example, that roofs can withstand hurricane-force winds, that construction materials are resistant to flood damage and that insulation helps reduce heating and cooling costs, officials said.

It's a "no-brainer" to make new houses and buildings more energy efficient as a means of reducing climate change impacts, said Wendell Porter, professor emeritus of building professions at the University of Florida. But location is what really matters, he said.

"You don't want to rain on anybody's parade," Porter said. "A big announcement that they're going to build better houses, that's always good news. But until you decide to not build in certain locations, it's a waste of time."

Take coastal communities, for example.

"It's really hard to build a structure to actually withstand flooding," Porter said, "There's only two real good methods and that's either build it up, or retreat. Stilts or away."

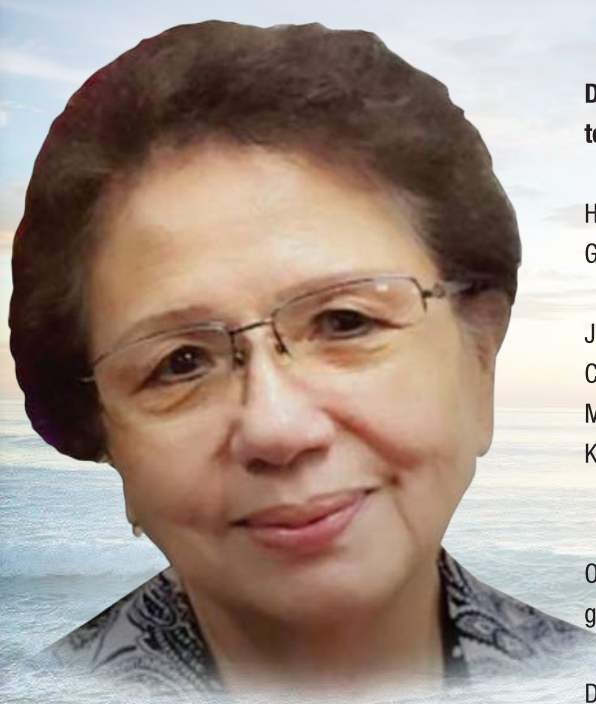
After Miami-Dade County was hit by Hurricane Andrew, stringent building code enforcement followed. But so did population growth, coastal development and climate change. Andrew was the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history at the time, causing more than $26 billion of damage in Florida's most populous areas.

Likewise, officials said, education will be a key element of the modernized building codes. A FEMA analysis found that only 35% of cities, counties and towns across the country have updated hazard-resistant building codes.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

†Alice Aquiningoc Villagomez Pangelinan

July 29, 1948 – May 27, 2022



Daughter of the late †Luis Cruz Villagomez and the late †Vicenta Lewis Aquiningoc Villagomez was called to her Eternal Rest.

Her spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of her children and grandchildren:
Gonzalo V. Pangelinan and Linda David-Pangelinan (Kristen Phillicia, Leona Yvonne and Suzanne [Andrew Ezekiel and Jaxson Malachi], Maia Magdalena, Christopher Phillip)
Joaquin V. Pangelinan and Tanya B. Pangelinan (Jayna Elyce, Joshua Anthony, Jaydon Anthony)
Christopher V. Pangelinan and Lei Rogopes
Magdalena P. Attao and David J. Attao (Alyssa Marie and Kyle Daven)
Kolinta Montoya and Edwin Montoya (Adam Edin) (Kamia Jade, Marley Renee, Iriana Alea, Kailani Rose)

Our beloved Mother is survived by numerous siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, god-children, relatives, and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00AM. Funeral services will be held on Monday, June 6, 2022 at Kristo Rai Church. Responso service will begin at 9:00AM followed by recitation of the Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30AM.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

THE FAMILY

Life & Style

Jury sides with Johnny Depp in libel case, awards him $10M

VERDICT IS IN
JOHNNY DEPP DEFAMATION CASE
LIVE
Jury Has a Verdict in Depp v. Heard
COURT TV
ND RAPING HER 10-YEAR-OLD FRIEND IN MAY 1976.
COURT TV
A WOMAN IN WEST VIRGINIA F
3:20 PM ET

AP

In this screen grab from video, Amber Heard reacts, with her lawyer Elaine Bredehoft at right, as the verdict is read in the courtroom in the Fairfax County Circuit Courthouse in Fairfax, Va., Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP)—A jury sided Wednesday with Johnny Depp in his libel lawsuit against ex-wife Amber Heard, awarding the "Pirates of the Caribbean" actor more than $10 million and vindicating his allegations that Heard lied about Depp abusing her before and during their brief marriage.

But in a split decision, the jury also found that Heard was defamed by one of Depp's lawyers, who accused her of creating a detailed hoax that included roughing up the couple's apartment to look worse for police. The jury awarded her $2 million.

The verdicts bring an end to a televised trial that Depp had hoped would help restore his reputation, though it turned into a spectacle that offered a window into a vicious marriage.

Heard, who was stoic in the courtroom as the verdict was read, said she was heartbroken.

"I'm even more disappointed with what this verdict means for other women. It's a setback. It sets back the clock to a time when a woman who spoke up and spoke out could be publicly humiliated. It sets back the idea that violence against women is to be taken seriously," she said in a statement posted on her Twitter account.

Depp, who was not in court Wednesday, said "the jury gave me my life back. I am truly humbled."

"I hope that my quest to have the truth be told will have helped others, men or women, who have found themselves in my situation, and that those supporting them never give up," he said in a statement posted to Instagram.

Depp sued Heard for libel in Fairfax County Circuit Court over a December 2018 op-ed she wrote in The Washington Post describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." His lawyers said he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name.

The jury found in Depp's favor on all three of his claims relating to specific statements in the 2018 piece.

Throughout the proceedings, fans who were overwhelmingly on Depp's side lined up overnight for coveted courtroom seats. Spectators who couldn't get in gathered on the street to cheer Depp and jeer Heard whenever they appeared outside.

A crowd of about 200 people cheered when Depp's lawyers came out after the verdict. "Johnny for president!" one man yelled repeatedly.

Pinkett Smith talks of hair-loss 'shame,' outcome of Oscar slap

AP

Jada Pinkett Smith appears on an episode of her online series "Red Table Talk."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jada Pinkett Smith turned her husband's Oscar-night blowup into a teachable moment about alopecia areata, the hair-loss disorder affecting her and millions of others that, in some cases, can impact a person's sense of identity.

"Considering what I've been through with my own health and what happened at the Oscars, thousands have reached out to me with their stories," Pinkett Smith said on Wednesday's episode of "Red Table Talk."

The actor said she chose to use "this moment to give our alopecia family an opportunity to talk about what it's like to have this condition" and what it is. Her guests included the mother of a 12-year-old girl, Rio Allred, who was bullied over her hair loss and died by suicide, and a physician who explained the different types of the disorder.

Before tackling the subject, Pinkett Smith addressed events at the March 27 Academy Awards. She and husband Will Smith, a best-actor nominee, were in the audience as presenter Chris Rock cracked a joke at Pinkett Smith's expense.

'Stranger Things' return encourages weekend binging

NEW YORK (AP)—For millions of fans of Netflix's sci-fi drama "Stranger Things," there's little mystery in how they spent their Memorial Day weekend.

Netflix released seven new episodes of the show's much awaited fourth season and said that a record-setting 286 million hours were streamed over the weekend. That's the biggest premiere ever for an English-language show on the service, beating the 193 hours for the second season of "Bridgerton," earlier this year.

It's a welcome dose of good news for Netflix, whose financial troubles have kept business reporters occupied this year.

The fourth season of "Stranger Things" is being released in two chunks, with two more episodes expected in July before the show wraps up with a fifth season.

With long, richly-produced episodes, the new season felt a bit like a throwback to Netflix's glory days—and that isn't necessarily a good thing, critic Daniel D'Addario wrote for Variety.

"The show has high ambitions and meets them—but in so doing sacrifices charm and humanity on the altar of looking and feeling expensive," he wrote.

Others found the new episodes thrilling. The fourth of the seven episodes just offered was "one of the finest hour and seventeen minutes of television I've seen in a long time," culture contributor Erik Kain wrote for Forbes.

"Stranger Things" and a strong performance over the weekend by new episodes of "Obi-Wan Kenobi" on Disney+ show that the two big streamers are effective in building franchises that appeal to passionate fans but also attract new users, said Cole Strain, vice president of measurement products at the research firm Samba TV.

Unlike broadcast and cable television, the streamers don't offer estimates on how many people are actually watching the shows.

Woman eats roommate's food when her spending runs dry

DEAR ABBY: A couple of months ago, I moved from my mother's into an apartment with a friend I had rekindled a high school friendship with a few years back. The first month in, I noticed she had eaten a few of my freezer meals, so I confronted her about it. She started crying and told me she was waiting for a new debit card in the mail and had limited cash to get her through until the card arrived. I told her she should have said something, and I would have happily let her have some of my food, but for her not to ask was rude because I rely on those freezer meals for quick and easy lunches at work.

I finished the box of meals and bought a new one. It was a large box with six packages inside. I intentionally left it unopened to see if she would steal food from me again. Lo and behold, a month later, I went to open the box and saw she'd taken two of them.

How do I confront her a second time? She doesn't have a car so she Ubers to work, which adds up, and she spends hundreds of dollars on her anime hobby. If I can't trust her with small things like food and snacks, how am I supposed to trust her

HUNGRY FOR HONESTY

DEAR HUNGRY: I am sorry to say this, but your roommate has proven she can't be trusted. Are her problems financial or emotional? Cross your fingers and hope she can come up with the rent each month. If you can afford it, purchase a small refrigerator for your bedroom, install a strong padlock on the door and use it to secure ALL of your property until the lease expires. If your roommate asks why the lock and fridge are being installed, confront her again then.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am writing about the letter you published on April 3 from "Incredulous in Oklahoma." She said her boyfriend falls into a deep sleep lasting three days every two or three weeks, during which time he turns abusive. Abby, his symptoms might be caused by a rare neurological disorder called Kleine-Levin Syndrome. Your readers can learn more about it by visiting the ninds.nih.gov website and selecting the Health Information tab to search for this disorder.

MARIAM IN FLORIDA

DEAR MARIAM: Thank you for the input. Several other readers also mentioned this disorder might be a possible explanation for the boyfriend's behavior. When I read her letter, I wasn't sure whether he might be "on" something, having an allergic reaction to a medication or unwell. This is why I suggested he might need to be examined physically and neurologically by a medical professional.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband did not have a close relationship with his parents. Now that they are both dead, he emulates them—wearing suspenders like his dad, drinking beer in the garage, having a TV in every room. His screen savers are of "Dad." What's the deal?

PERPLEXED WIFE IN UTAH

DEAR WIFE: I think you should gently ask your husband that question. He may not realize that he is modeling his father's behavior. It may be a safe way to maintain a connection to dear old Dad, or proof that a behavioral influence can travel from generation to generation, but don't make a problem where there isn't one.

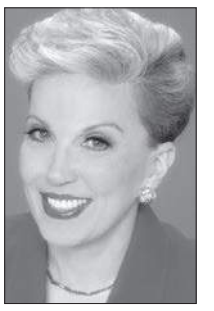
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

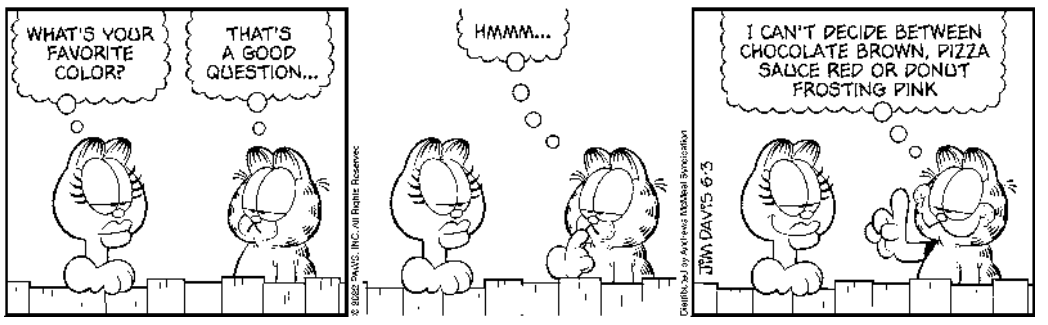
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

ALL RIGHT, CALVIN, GO AHEAD. WHAT'S YOUR STORY ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW YET, BUT I'M SURE IT'S GOOD!
MY STORY IS ENTITLED, "HOW HOBBES, THE HANDSOME TIGER, SAVES THE DAY...
...NO THANKS TO CALVIN, THE TIME TRAVELING CHONDERHEAD."
WHAT?!
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
THERE WILL BE FOR A CERTAIN STRIPEY FURBALL WHEN I GET HOME.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION...
HMMM...
I CAN'T DECIDE BETWEEN CHOCOLATE BROWN, PIZZA SAUCE RED OR DONUT FROSTING PINK
JIM DAVIS 6-3

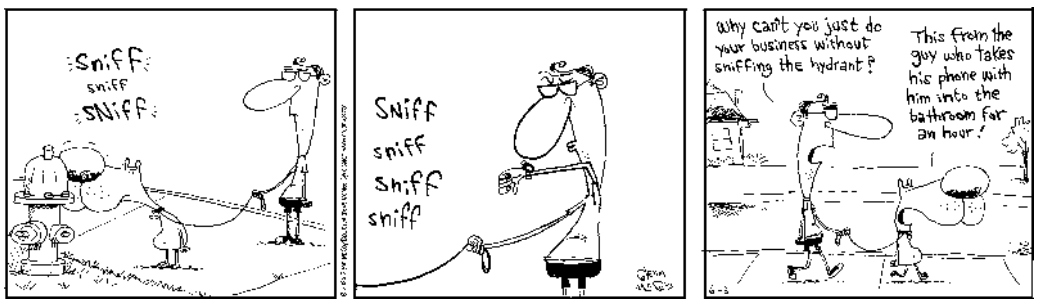
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO THE STORE.
KATY HAD THESE NEW JELLY BEANS. SAID THEY'RE AMAZING.
SHE WOULDN'T SHARE, SO I'M GOING TO BUY MY OWN. I'LL SHOW HER!
ADAM. YOU'RE A GROWN MAN.
WITH GROWN-MAN MONEY FOR BUYING JELLY BEANS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


Sniff sniff sniff
Sniff sniff sniff sniff
Why can't you just do your business without sniffing the hydrant?
This from the guy who takes his phone with him into the bathroom for an hour!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Relaxes
6 Zodiac animal
9 Cato's 1200
12 Drink eagerly
13 Big bird of Australia
14 Odometer start
15 Bake eggs
16 Solo passage in a concerto
18 Loud sounds
20 Western tribe
21 Punk rock offshoot
23 Wander about
24 Rep
25 Dimension
27 "I'll handle it"
29 Wolfs (down)
31 Actress Ryder
35 Emulate Lincoln
37 Hibernia
38 CBer's device
41 Fun and games
43 Festive
44 Sir Guinness
45 "Delta Wedding" author Welty
47 Sudden windfall
49 Links
52 However
53 Coffee vessel
54 Demolishes
55 Egos' counterparts
56 Cave mammal
57 NYC Mayor Eric —

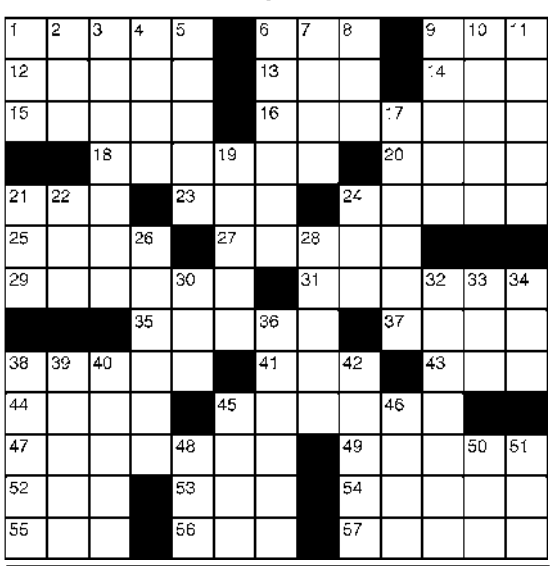
DOWN

1 Golfer Ernie
2 "Feels so good!"
3 Dutch philosopher
4 Continental coin
5 Parsley piece
6 Ebb
7 Latin I word
8 Wet dirt
9 — Carlo
10 Swindle
11 Seaboard
17 Oregon city
19 Latin dance
21 Twisty turn
22 Karaoke prop, for short
24 "— dreaming?"
26 Beethoven's Third
28 Jacket material
30 Swing to and —
32 Party dress fabric
33 Actress Long
34 Whatever
36 Class absentee
38 Talmud scholar
39 Vocally
40 Fender flaws
42 Hooded snake
45 Old Testament book
46 Fork setting
48 Central point
50 Rep.'s rival
51 Hot wok sound

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	H	O	Y		B	A	G		A	S	T	A
B	A	R	E		A	M	I		S	P	A	N
B	I	C	A		S	A	G		W	H	I	T
A	G	A	S	S	I		S	P	O		L	S
			T	'	N			H	O	N		
W	A	R	S		G	I	V	I	N	G	U	P
I	C	U			E	M	I			E	V	A
I	E	M	P	O	R	A	L		D	H	A	M
		M	A	N			L	E	E			
F	E	A	R	E	D		A	X	I	O	M	S
O	R	G	S		R	E	G		C	L	E	O
A	G	E	E		A	R	E		E	G	A	N
L	O	R	D		B	A	R		S	A	N	S

Yesterday's answer 6-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rafael Nadal, 36; Anderson Cooper, 55; James Purefoy, 58; Deniece Williams, 72.

Happy Birthday: Reach out to the people and groups that pique your interest and encourage you to develop and follow your dreams. By participating in social events, you'll receive valuable information that can help shape your future. Explore possibilities; check out rules and regulations that can affect how you proceed. Update and upgrade to ensure you are on top of your game. Your numbers are 5, 12, 21, 25, 34, 46, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Review how you handle money and wield your earning power. Making sure that you can afford the lifestyle you choose will help you make reliable plans for advancement. Don't be afraid to promote what you have to offer. 2 stars

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take care of yourself, your relationships and your health. Leave nothing to chance. Don't let anyone back you into a corner. Associate with people who bring out the best in you, and it will encourage positive changes at home conducive to financial growth. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Sign up for something you care about, and work to make a difference. How you contribute can set the stage for new beginnings. A hands-on approach will help you gain insight and confidence. Be proactive and take control. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Consider alternatives, and share thoughts with a trusted acquaintance who will help you reach your objective. Invest time and money in yourself and your skills. Learn from experience and experts, and you will find the success you desire. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Speak from the heart, but don't reveal your financial, medical or contractual obligations. Share your feelings and personal goals, and you'll be the recipient of good news and exciting plans. Expand your knowledge and reach for the stars. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Step up and take over. Say what's on your mind. Offer solutions that are well thought out and easy to apply. Your dedication and loyalty will far outweigh what anyone else has to offer. Pursue your plans; recognition will follow. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Push for what you want. Don't hold back or let someone outshine you. Put your heart and soul into getting what you want, and be ready to counter any negativity or manipulative tactics that pop up. Push yourself to the limit. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Emotions will get you in trouble. Let your humor and wit lead the way, and offer a positive and playful attitude that is difficult to resist. How you present who you are and what you want will determine what you receive. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Invest in something that stabilizes your life. Take on a project that eases stress and makes your daily routine free of trouble. Don't share personal information with a co-worker or take on more responsibilities than you can handle. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Honesty is the best policy when dealing with relationships. Be precise and keep everyone informed to avoid costly last-minute changes. Don't let yourself get overloaded with additional responsibilities. A personal change will give you a boost. Romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put your energy where it counts. Look over your financial papers and adjust your budget. Stay away from individuals who meddle or try to push you in a direction you don't care to travel. Don't jeopardize your health or reputation. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't settle for less than what you want. Be willing to put in the labor required to get things done your way. Make unique plans with someone you love, and you'll end your day on a happy note. Personal growth is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious, imaginative and courageous. You are persistent and unique.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1		8				
4								5
	5		4	7	9		8	
9		7				6		3
		4				9		
2		3				4		8
	2		9	8	7		1	
8								7
		6		1				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	8	5	4	1	7	6	2	3
2	7	1	8	3	6	4	9	5
4	3	6	9	5	2	8	1	7
5	6	2	1	9	8	7	3	4
8	9	3	7	2	4	1	5	6
7	1	4	5	6	3	9	8	2
3	2	8	6	7	1	5	4	9
6	4	9	3	8	5	2	7	1
1	5	7	2	4	9	3	6	8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TYPES OF WINDS Solution: 9 letters

M	P	S	O	U	T	H	E	R	N	F	O	E	H	N
T	O	L	O	C	C	O	R	I	S	W	M	H	O	B
E	R	U	A	I	G	S	R	A	D	I	L	Y	R	L
R	E	O	N	N	I	N	S	N	R	R	A	R	S	O
E	A	O	F	T	E	R	I	P	A	C	D	A	E	W
H	S	E	Q	U	A	T	O	R	H	D	N	D	L	E
P	T	L	R	D	A	I	A	A	A	W	O	N	F	S
S	E	N	A	V	T	E	N	R	L	O	Z	O	K	T
O	R	R	L	T	W	G	B	I	Y	O	R	C	N	E
M	L	C	O	R	I	O	L	I	S	C	O	E	O	R
T	I	L	P	N	S	T	D	S	E	N	I	S	T	L
A	E	A	G	B	T	D	U	S	H	D	L	O	C	I
R	S	C	D	E	E	P	S	D	A	E	G	A	L	E
O	S	O	L	A	R	R	T	R	E	D	A	R	T	S
B	G	L	O	B	A	L	G	M	I	S	T	R	A	L

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Atmosphere, Beaufort, Berg, Blow, Bora, Changing, Cold, Coriolis, Dust, Easterlies, Equator, Foehn, Forces, Gale, Global, Gradient, Horse, Knot, Latitudes, Lidars, Local, Loos, Mistral, Mountain, Planetary, Polar, Prime, Radars, Roaring, Secondary, Shear, Sirocco, Solar, Sonic, Southern, Speed, Tornado, Trade, Twister, Vanes, Westerlies, Zonda

Yesterday's Answer: Nashville

To purchase **Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition** visit. www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-866-642-6480.

Verlander, Alvarez lift Astros over Athletics

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Justin Verlander took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, Yordan Álvarez cleared the bases with a go-ahead double in the ninth and the Houston Astros beat the Oakland Athletics 5-4 on Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Elvis Andrus broke up Verlander's no-hit bid with an RBI double in the seventh inning that tied the game at 1. Christian Bethancourt followed with a two-run homer, his first drive since 2016, to give Oakland a 3-1 lead.

Houston responded with four runs in the ninth off closer Dany Jiménez (2-3), keyed by Álvarez's three-run double. Aledmys Díaz and Alex Bregman also drove in runs for the Astros, who won their fourth in a row.

Verlander finished with six strikeouts in seven innings, allowing three earned runs on two hits for a no-decision. Reliever Bryan Abreu (3-0) pitched a scoreless eighth inning. Ryan Pressly closed for his 10th save.

AP

Houston Astros' Justin Verlander pitches against an Oakland Athletics batter during the first inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Pirates 8, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Bryan Reynolds hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning, Rodolfo Castro drove in four runs in three innings, and Pittsburgh beat Los Angeles to complete its first sweep there in nearly 22 years.

The NL West-leading Dodgers were swept for the first time this season.

The scrappy Pirates turned four double plays and improved to 11-13 on the road with their first sweep of the Dodgers since Aug. 7-9, 2015. They hadn't swept a series at Dodger Stadium since Sept. 4-6, 2000.

Chase De Jong (4-9) got the win, giving up one hit in 1 1/3 innings. He struck out one and walked one.

Reynolds' two-out shot off Mitch White (1-1) in the fifth gave the Pirates a 3-1 lead. They took an early lead for the third straight game on Josh VanMeter's RBI single in the first.

Mets 5, Nationals 0

In New York, Tomás Nido went 4 for 4 with three RBIs at the bottom of the batting order, and Carlos Carrasco combined with three relievers on New York's second consecutive shutout to finish a perfect homestand.

Francisco Lindor extended his RBI streak to 10 games, matching Hall of Famer Mike Piazza for the second-longest in franchise history. New York went 6-0 against NL East rivals Philadelphia and Washington for its first unbeaten homestand of six or more games since a 10-0 run in April 2015.

Nationals left-hander Evan Lee (0-1) lasted 3 2/3 innings in his big league debut after getting called up from Double-A Harrisburg. He allowed two runs and four hits.

Carrasco (6-1) matched his career high with five walks and pitched out of trouble all afternoon against the last-place Nationals. He needed 95 pitches to get through five innings but stranded eight runners.

Phillies 6, Giants 5

In Philadelphia, Kyle Schwarber and Nick Maton homered to help Philadelphia snap a five-game losing streak with a victory over San Francisco.

Phillies star Bryce Harper was a late scratch from the lineup due to right forearm soreness, and second baseman Jean Segura was ruled out for up to three months with a fractured right index finger.

Maton, Segura's replacement at second base, also had an RBI bunt single as Philadelphia avoided a three-game sweep and won for just the fifth time in 17 games while likely cooling calls for manager Joe Girardi's job — at least for now.

Philadelphia starter Aaron Nola (3-4) was cruising until allowing five runs in the sixth inning. The Phillies picked him up in the bottom of the frame against reliever Jarlin Garcia (1-2).

Cardinals 5, Padres 2

In St. Louis, Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer and drove in three, Dakota Hudson threw seven strong innings and St. Louis beat San Diego to complete a three-game sweep.

Nick Wittgren earned his first save by getting the last out of the game when he retired pinch-hitter Robinson Canó on a fly ball with the bases loaded. The Cardinals have won five of six games. The Padres have lost four of five.

Paul Goldschmidt extended his hitting streak to 23 games and reached safely for a career-best 37th consecutive game. Hudson (4-2) gave up a run in the first inning but shut out the Padres over the next six innings. He allowed one run on four hits with a walk and three strikeouts.

Yu Darvish (4-3) pitched 7 2/3 innings, giving up five runs and seven hits.

Blue Jays 7, White Sox 3

In Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a two-run homer, Danny Jansen added a three-run blast, and Toronto won its seventh straight, its longest streak since an eight-game run last September.

Santiago Espinal added a solo shot as the Blue Jays won for the 11th time in 14 games. Blue Jays left-hander Hyun Jin Ryu left after four innings because of tightness in his forearm. Ryu missed 24 games in April and May because of soreness in his forearm.

Ross Stripling (1-1) replaced Ryu and worked 2 2/3 scoreless innings. David Phelps pitched 1 1/3 innings and Yimi Garcia finished.

Michael Kopech (1-2) walked four, struck out four and threw 85 pitches, 46 strikes. His ERA rose from 1.29 to 2.20.

Rays 4, Rangers 3, 11 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Ji-Man Choi hit an RBI double in the 11th inning to give Tampa Bay a win over Texas.

No. 9 batter Vidal Bruján hit a sacrifice fly in the Tampa Bay 10th. His single in the second had ended a streak of 30 consecutive Rays batters retired since the second inning of their 3-0 loss on Tuesday night.

The Rangers got even on an RBI single by Adolis Garcia in the bottom of the 10th, but then left the bases loaded when rookie Zach Reks flew out to left. The Rangers left 14 runners on base.

Jon Gray struck out a season-high 12 batters over seven innings and exited with a 2-1 lead for Texas. Dennis Santana (2-2) pitched the final two innings.

Lefty Colin Poche (1-0), the sixth Rays pitcher, struck out two in the 10th before Matt Wisler pitched the 11th for his first save in three chances.

Red Sox 7, Reds 1

In Boston, Garrett Whitlock pitched six strong innings and Jackie Bradley Jr. drove in four runs to help Boston beat Cincinnati.

Whitlock (2-1) allowed five hits and one unearned run before two relievers completed the seven-hitter.

Boston got to Hunter Greene (2-7) in the fourth inning. Greene struck out seven batters in the first three innings before the Red Sox broke through.

Rafael Devers opened the fourth with a double. J.D. Martinez and Xander Bogaerts followed with singles and Alex Verdugo had a run-scoring double. Two out laters, Bradley singled home

Verdugo ending Greene's evening. He gave up four runs in 3 2/3 innings. He struck out eight.

Guardians 4, Royals 0

In Cleaveland, rookie left-hander Konnor Pilkington struck out eight in five innings for his first major league win and Cleveland completed a three-game sweep.

Pilkington (1-0), making his third career start and sixth appearance, worked out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the fourth. The left-hander is taking the rotation spot of injured Aaron Civale.

José Ramírez had a run-scoring groundout in the fifth for his major league leading 52nd RBI. Amed Rosario, Andrés Giménez and Richie Palacios also drove in runs for Cleveland.

Orioles 9, Mariners 2

In Baltimore, Ryan Mountcastle and Ramón Urías hit two of Baltimore's four homers with back-to-back shots in the sixth inning to cruise past Seattle.

Rougned Odor and Trey Mancini also connected for the Orioles, who bounced back from a 10-0 defeat the prior night. Reliever Cionel Perez (4-0) picked up the win with 1 1/3 scoreless innings.

Baltimore pulled away with five runs in the sixth. Mountcastle and Urías gave the Orioles a cushion with back-to-back home runs. Cedric Mullins hit an RBI double and Mancini connected for a two-run shot that boosted the lead to 9-2.

Tigers 5, Twins 0

In Detroit, Tarik Skubal allowed just two hits in seven innings Detroit's win over Minnesota.

Jonathan Schoop, who is hitting .438 with a home run and six RBIs in the five-game series against his former team, drove in two of Detroit's runs. The Tigers have won three of four in the series that concludes Thursday, including back-to-back shutouts.

Skubal (4-2) walked one and struck out six to improve to 3-0 with a 1.22 ERA in his last six starts.

Minnesota's Bailey Ober (1-2) allowed five runs on nine hits in six innings. The Twins haven't scored in 20 innings.

Marlins 14, Rockies 1, game 1
Rockies 13, Marlins 12, 10 innings, game 2

In Denver, Brendan Rodgers hit three home runs, including a two-run walkoff drive in the 10th inning, to help Colorado top Miami in the second game of a doubleheader, earning the split.

Rodgers, who had a one-out ninth-inning double in Miami's 14-1 rout in the first game, went deep against Marlins lefty Trevor Rogers to lead off the second to give him hits in 19 straight games.

In the 10th, he pulled a changeup from Cole Sulser (0-3) into the left-field seats to give the Rockies their first series win in eight tries.

In the first game, rookie right-hander Edward Cabrera (1-0) took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and struck out nine to earn his first big league win. Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a three-run shot off of starter Antonio Senzatela (2-3) and the Marlins had 21 hits.

In the nightcap, Miami's Jesus Sanchez hit his second long home run in three days, and Avisail Garcia delivered a sacrifice fly in the 10th, but Miami completed a 2-6 trip.

The Rockies' Daniel Bard (3-2) got the Game 2 win. Starter German Marquez allowed seven runs — six earned — and three home runs over five innings.

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, Austin Riley hit a three-run homer, William Contreras had three hits — including two of Atlanta's five doubles — and Kyle Wright threw six scoreless innings for Atlanta.

Riley's homer broke open a close game in the seventh for the Braves, who salvaged the final game and avoided their first three-game losing streak of the season. Adam Duvall, Michael Harris II and Guillermo Heredia also doubled for Atlanta.

Wright (5-3) received more than three runs of support for the first time this season while giving up three hits and five walks with five strikeouts in his seventh quality start.

Atlanta's five doubles — all with an exit velocity of at least 105 mph — came in the first four innings off Madison Bumgarner (2-4), who had won his last eight decisions against the Braves.

Cubs 4, Brewers 3, 10 innings

In Chicago, rookie Christopher Morel drove in Jason Heyward with a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning in Chicago's win over Milwaukee.

Heyward started on second base and moved up on a groundout by Nick Madrigal. Morel then drove him in with a fly to left against Hoby Milner (2-1) and got mobbed by his teammates in the infield after the winning run scored.

Morel extended his club record by reaching base in his first 15 major league games, when he walked and scored in the first.

Kyle Hendricks went five innings, allowing three runs and six hits, after losing his previous two starts. Five relievers combined to shut out Milwaukee the rest of the way, with Mark Leiter Jr. (1-1) getting out of a tough spot in the 10th.

Warriors, Celtics built Finals teams through draft

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— When Steve Kerr looks at the way the Boston Celtics built a championship-caliber team, he sees plenty of similarities to how his Golden State Warriors got to the NBA Finals in 2015.

Boston built a core through the draft by taking Marcus Smart, Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum during a four-year span from 2014-17 and added the necessary pieces to get over the hump this year to make it to the finals.

Waiting for the Celtics in Game 1 on Thursday night will be Kerr's Warriors, who are making their sixth trip in eight years led by the homegrown core of Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green.

"Traditionally, this is how it's supposed to work in the NBA," Kerr said. "If you look over the years, you grow a team through the draft, you take your lumps through the playoffs, you climb up and then you get to the finals. Our team was built somewhat the same way. ... I think that's good for the sport."

That approach bucks a growing trend around the league of megastar movement as teams have tried to build more through free agency and trades than in the draft.

Both teams have eight players on the roster acquired originally in the draft and this is the first finals since Chicago-Utah in 1998, according to ESPN, when the top three playoff scorers from both teams made their NBA debuts with their current teams.

The similarities between the teams isn't complete, with the biggest discrepancy being experience. Led by Curry, Thompson and Green, the Warriors have a total of 123 games played in the finals on their roster compared to none for the Celtics, who lost in the Eastern Conference finals three times in the previous five years.

"There are obviously nerves and adrenaline and anxiety and nerves — like everything in terms of the emotions of playing at this stage," Curry said about his first finals appearance. "That first game is sometimes all over the place because of that. And once you settle in, it does become about basketball, like it normally is."

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry speaks to members of the media during NBA basketball practice in San Francisco, Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Celtics coach Ime Udoka, who was an assistant on two teams that went to the finals in San Antonio, isn't overly concerned, citing the experience his top players have gotten in the postseason in recent years.

Boston won two Game 7s just to get here this season, beating defending champion Milwaukee at home in the second round and winning at Miami in the conference final.

"I think once you get out of the initial media circus and the intensity and how everything is much more exaggerated, obviously it's not much different when you get on the court," he said.

FIRST-YEAR COACH

Udoka is the fifth coach since 2015 to make the finals in his first year as an NBA head coach, with three of the previous four winning it all. Kerr beat Cleveland's David Blatt in a battle of first-year NBA coaches in the 2015 finals and then lost to Ty Lue and the Cavs the following year. Toronto's Nick Nurse also won it in his first year as an NBA coach against the Warriors in 2019.

Before that, the only first-year coaches to win the NBA Finals since the 1950s were Pat Riley (1982 Lakers) and Paul Westhead (1980 Lakers).

INSPIRATION

Golden State owner Joe Lacob was a minority owner of the Celtics before taking over the downtrodden Warriors in 2010. At the time, he said he hoped the Warriors could rival the success of franchises like the Celtics and Lakers.

"We were trying to change the direction of this franchise at the time," Lacob said. "So the first thing you have to do is set goals."

With a chance at a fourth title in Golden State's sixth trip to the Finals in the past eight years, Lacob's lofty goals have become a reality but he's far from satisfied.

"It'll take a lot of years of ownership to even come close to what the Celtics have achieved in terms of all the fantastic decades of success," Lacob said.

HOME COOKING

Curry said early in the playoffs that he wanted the Warriors to find an identity at Chase Center in the 3-year-old arena's first playoff run. Golden State has done that, winning all nine games at home and outscoring the opposition by 14.6 points per game. The Warriors are the fifth team to go 9-0 or better at home leading into the Finals.

Both these teams have had success on the road, with Boston winning seven of nine games away from home so far and the Warriors having won at least one road game in a record 26 straight playoff series.

INJURY REPORT

The Warriors finished last round without three key players — Andre Iguodala (neck), Gary Payton II (left elbow) and Otto Porter Jr. (left foot) — who could provide needed defensive help on the wings against Tatum and Brown.

All three have been able to practice this week and are listed as questionable for Game 1. Iguodala has missed the last 12 games, Payton has been out for nine and Porter sat out the final two games of the Western Conference finals.

The Celtics are dealing with a significant injury of their own with center Robert Williams III hampered by left knee inflammation. Williams played the final four games against the Heat but didn't look at his best. He is listed as questionable.

Smart is off the injury report after dealing with a sprained right ankle last round.

Black coaches now lead 50% of NBA teams

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— It's an annual occurrence in the NBA. Teams change head coaches and the roster of candidates who should get those jobs starts getting bandied about, and especially in recent years those lists almost always included Black candidates.

Case in point: Ime Udoka, who is of Nigerian descent.

For five years, he was one of those can't-miss candidates but never got hired. That is, until the Boston Celtics gave him the opportunity. And all Udoka did in Year 1 was reach the NBA Finals.

"I don't understand what took so long, to be honest," Celtics guard Jaylen Brown said.

Udoka's hiring by the Eastern Conference champion Celtics, who open the NBA Finals on Thursday night against the Golden State Warriors, was part of a transformative year for the league when it comes to diversity within the coaching ranks. In the last 12 months, eight coaching jobs have been filled by Black candidates — and for the first time, half the league's franchises, 15 of the 30, have Black head coaches.

"It means a lot," said Golden State assistant Mike Brown, one of the eight recent Black hires; he's taking over the Sacramento Kings when this series ends. "When my son, and my oldest son's about to have his first son, when they turn on the TV and they see people that look like them leading an NBA team on the sidelines, it can be inspiring.

"For me, carrying the torch and then passing it to the next generation is something that I think about often — not just for my family, but for others out there."

Detroit's Dwane Casey, Phoenix's Monty Williams, Cleveland's J.B. Bickerstaff, Philadelphia's Doc Rivers, the Los Angeles Clippers' Tyronn Lue, Houston's Stephen Silas and Atlanta's Nate McMillan are the seven Black coaches who had their current jobs last season. They've been joined in the last year by Udoka, Brown, Portland's Chauncey Billups, Dallas' Jason Kidd, Orlando's Jamahl Mosley, Washington's Wes Unseld Jr., New Orleans' Willie Green and last week, the Los Angeles Lakers hired Darvin Ham.

Mosley interviewed for nine jobs before getting hired in Orlando. Ham, like Udoka, had been a can't-miss name for years, but never got a chance until now.

"Darvin is about as good a guy as you're going to see, a big competitor," Boston's Al Horford said. "Extreme competitor. The Lakers are really lucky to have a guy like him. He's the kind of guy that you want."

It's been nearly 60 years since Bill Russell broke the NBA coaching color barrier when he became the first Black man to coach a team; he accepted the role as player-coach of the Celtics starting with the 1966-67 season and won a championship in his second season.

Al Attles and Lenny Wilkens were the next two Black coaches to get opportunities; they would eventually become champions as well. There have been roughly 260 different coaches in the NBA, excluding short-term interim fill-ins, since Russell was hired, and 1 out of 3 of those coaches have been Black. But most of those Black coaches have either lasted in their first job no more than three years or not gotten a second chance at leading a team.

Players wanted that to change. Evidently, so did other coaches.

"For many years qualified young coaches of color like Ime Udoka, Jamahl Mosley, Willie Green, Wes Unseld Jr., Darvin Ham and Stephen Silas, to name just a few, were not getting consistent opportunities to interview for NBA head coaching positions," said Indiana coach Rick Carlisle, the president of the National Basketball Coaches Association. "The last two years changed everything. The league office has tirelessly made franchises more aware of the qualifications and journeys of these talented young coaches. This increased awareness has led to qualified coaches of all backgrounds having greater opportunity to interview and the numbers speak for themselves."

Part of that awareness came from a meeting that three league officials — Commissioner Adam Silver, chief people and inclusion officer Oris Stuart and president of social responsibility and player programs Kathy Behrens — had with Carlisle, representing the NBCA, in February 2019.

Out of that meeting, the NBA Coaches Equality Initiative was born. The NBCA worked with the league in many ways to get it started, including the building of a database; in a couple of clicks, teams in need of coaches could get information, including qualifications, experience and even an on-camera interview in some cases, on every available candidate.

There are still areas where the NBA can improve in terms of diversity. Most front-office positions are not held by people of color and Michael Jordan is the lone Black principal owner of a franchise; Jordan leads the Charlotte Hornets, the only team that has a coaching vacancy right now.

"In terms of diversity, we discuss it all the time," Silver said at All-Star weekend in February. "We've made more progress in other areas. And in terms of CEOs on the business side of teams, we would absolutely love to see more progress there. ... No doubt, that's an area we can do a better job."

That said, the numbers in the NBA wildly exceed the other major U.S. pro leagues.

There are three Black coaches in the NFL — Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin, Houston's Lovie Smith and Tampa Bay's Todd Bowles. That does not include Miami's Mike McDaniel; his father is Black, but McDaniel identifies as biracial. The person McDaniel replaced in Miami, former coach Brian Flores, is suing the Dolphins and the NFL for what he says is racial discrimination in hiring practices.

"Our league leads the charge," Mike Brown said. "Hopefully other leagues will follow suit."

But he also points out that he longs for a day when 50% of the coaches in a league being Black won't seem like a milestone.

"That's the dream," he said.

FishGuyz Scuba & Charter is gold sponsor for Mini Games

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

With the Sugar Dock and the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games vehicle as the backdrop, FishGuyz Scuba & Charter Co. formalized its $50,000 in-kind donation as gold sponsor of the Mini Games yesterday.

The company's contribution to the quadrennial event is the completion of the outrigger or *va'a* course at the 13 Fisherman Memorial Monument Beach and Mini Games Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta thanked the company for their support.

LEIGH GASES

FishGuyz Scuba & Charter Co. owners pose with the Pacific Mini Games organizing committee at the Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa yesterday morning after their more than $50,000 in-kind donations made them a gold sponsor for the event.

"Thank you guys for all your support at the beginning, looking at what needs to be done… I was clueless out there, I was stunned. It was a lot of work… That was a long process obviously and there were barriers but we accomplished it…"

Babauta added that they were mobilizing logistics already starting yesterday, which are the container office, the tents, and the flag poles.

According to FishGuyz, they will be repainting all the buoys on June 10 or seven days prior to the start of the Mini Games.

Sydney Takahashy, owner of FishGuyz, said they donated to the Mini Games was because of the legacy of being part of the first Mini Games held in the CNMI.

"The first time we came in and talked to Ben he said this will be a legacy. So you know, we want to be part of this. And working with these guys… it's amazing. It's been really amazing. Just to be part of it, I think that's what really excited us. This is the first time we actually did something like this. We're very excited. And this is for the CNMI right? This is the first ever kind… for us to host something like this and to be a part of it. It's a legacy and it's something that we contribute for the Commonwealth."

Babauta described how helpful the FishGuyz was with figuring out how to create it. "When they were describing it, I had no knowledge about it, but when they saw it, it's just a lot of work being done out in the water in lieu of one, just the area. Finding the depth and of course all the permitting and for FishGuyz to literally have a team diving in and putting the anchor and one of them pounding and one of them pulling down the buoy. It's an art. It's an art itself in the water."

"It was just amazing that the FishGuyz was able to facilitate 350 buoys or anchors in lieu of eight lanes for our events. We do have 36 canoes that we're ready to launch and that lane is really critical for the Mini Games and also certification for va'a international delegates," added Babauta.

"It was a lot of teamwork… without them working on the permits and stuff like that, we wouldn't get things done on time," added Takahashy.

There were 10 full-time staff including Takahashy himself and five part-time staff that helped out with the course.

40 take part in UOG baseball clinics

» 2 prospects eyed

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of University of Guam's "Summer 2022 Baseball Clinics" join coaches and other volunteers during the event last week at the Capitol Hill Softball Field.

A total of 40 players took part in the University of Guam's "Summer 2022 Baseball Clinics" held last Thursday and Friday at the Capitol Hill Softball Field.

Triton Baseball Team head coach Roke Alcantara said after the two-day clinic they've zeroed on two prospects—Ton Narita and Isaiah Teigita.

The coach said Narita and Teigita are utility players who can play any position and both have really good fundamentals.

Aside from the two Alcantara said that his group in general was impressed with what the 40 players who took part in the clinic brought to the table.

"Extremely talented and I was very impressed with their fundamentals and arm strength. That this is an awesome opportunity for them if they are passionate about the sports we offer and are committed to pursuing their education with a university that is so close to home."

On the baseball clinic part, Alcantara said they taught the fundamentals of baseball like how to properly warm-up, and stretch as well as pointers on fielding defense and drills for hitting.

After the two-day clinic on Saipan, Alcantara's team boarded a plane to Tinian and also conducted a clinic there.

"We also planted the seeds with those potential scholar-athletes that are going into their senior year of high school," he said.

Joining Alcantara in UOG's "Summer 2022 Baseball Clinics" on Saipan and Tinian were UOG Enrollment Management & Student Success dean Lawrence Camacho, UOG Athletics director Douglas Palmer, and UOG Residence Halls director Mark Mendiola.

The Saipan International School headmaster is also banking on Pharmin to make some waves in the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships.

"Orrin will be competing at the masters level. This is new to me and I look forward to seeing how this pans out. I think he has some good chances," he said.

TEAM

From Page 24

and 1500m race, Mancao will try his hand in the steeplechase and 800m, while Tan will compete in the 10K and 5K events.

Snyder is looking at the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships as a springboard for the core of the CNMI National Athletics Team to perform well in advance of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 set from June 17 to 25 in the CNMI.

"For most of them, I just want them to get the feel of a large-scale competition. Most of them will never have seen this type of competition before. Tania has been competing at the D1 level and she has been to an OAA championship before. I have hopes she places high in the standings of the islands. But most of all, I am hoping this experience prepares them for the minigames and they get a chance to get some experience on the track before the games," he said.

CHAMPI

From Page 24

second in a row.

Villacanas remained modest even after the back-to-back wins and attributed his good fortune the last two months to luck and his dedication to practice.

"I take some time to practice. Usually I practice on Saturdays or weekdays after work."

Villacanas also thanked MRA and its leadership for their maintenance of the Cowtown Race Track.

"The track is very good right now. Most especially on the fifth round because our president, Mr. Charles, wet the tracks prior to big boys ATV race, veterans, and expert category. They did it to control the dust. So somehow it helped the riders to see clearly."

Asked why MRA folks call him Champi, Villacanas said it had something to do with a typhoon way back in 2015.

"My wife gave birth to our boy when Typhoon Champi hit us in 2015. So I named my Facebook account Champi. So, usually they call me Champi because of my FB account," he said.

In the Novice Class, Joseph Santos topped all comers with 50 points, followed by Ethan Yumul's 44 points, and Aric Cruz's 40 points.

Dave Celis, meanwhile, took pole position in the Expert Open Class after coming up with 47 points. Ellery Cruz came second with 45 points, while Villacanas wound up third with 38 points.

NMI

From Page 24

Joseph Taupiri and Rodney Vaka of the Solomon Islands in the first round, with the winner going on to challenge Rossi and Cucuel.

Women's doubles

Once again, Johanna Kou is the top seed. In 2019, she won the gold with Dgeniva Matauli ,but this year, she will be looking to defend her spot on top of the podium alongside Marine Souviat. Receiving a bye into the quarterfinals, they will take on Wallis and Futuna debutants Malia Takasi and Endrina Tukumuli Nau, who are the second seeds at the top half of the draw.

Tahiti's Jenica Lesourd and Mélissa Mi You will team up as second seeds on the other end of the draw.

Solomon Islands have entered two pairs into the women's doubles—Emma Soaki/Cathrine Temete and Elizabeth Meke/Norah Meke. All four players are making their Pacific Games debut and will open their campaigns against pairs from Tahiti and the NMI, respectively.

Mixed doubles

Rémi Rossi will be joining Mélissa Mi You to defend his gold from Samoa 2019, which he won with Coralie Bouttin. Their opening match will be against the Tuvalu debutants who are teaming up in the mixed doubles.

Johanna Kou, who won bronze in Samoa 2019 with Morgan Paitio, will team up with Carl N'guela. In her 2019 bronze medal playoff, Kou defeated New Caledonia's Yohan De Geoffrey, who will be joining forces with the former's previous doubles partner—Marine Souviat. De Geoffrey and Souviat are the event's second seeds and are receiving a bye into the second round to take on Wallis and Futuna debutants Damien Coffin and Malia Takasi. ***(PR)***

Verlander, Alvarez lift Astros over Athletics 5-4

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Team CNMI leaves for Oceania Champs

Cabrera

Mancao

Pharmin

Rangmar

Sapong

Tan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI delegation to the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships will leave for Mackay, Australia today.

A total of six athletes make up the delegation that will be led by CNMI national athletics coach Dr. Ron Snyder.

Commonwealth athletes taking in the regionals championships set from June 7 to 11 are Tania Tan, Tiana Cabrera, Lia Rangamar, Zari Sapong, Mike Mancao, and Orrin Pharmin.

Snyder said, in all CNMI athletes will compete in a total of nine events with the exception of Pharmin who will compete in masters events.

Sapong is entered in the 100m and 200m, Rangamar inherits one of her mother's favorite events the javelin, Cabrera will run the 5000m

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'Champi' is champ anew in Veterans Class

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lenard "Champi" Villacanas in action during the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lenard "Champi" Villacanas again ruled the Veterans Class in the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

Aboard his trusty 2022 Yamaha yzf450, Villacanas won both heats to finish with a perfect 50 points. Dave Cepeda finished second in both races for 44 points, while Melvin Cepeda rounded out third place with 40 points.

"Every race I usually just enjoy it. So whenever I luckily got a place I dedicate it to my wife and kids who've been with me every race," he said.

It's the second time the 41-year-old heavy equipment operator at Construction Materials Supply won the division after also triumphing in the April edition, which made his win in the May competition of the Marianas Racing Association his

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NMI's Pangilinan, Galvez debut vs Solomons pair

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI National Badminton player Andreau Galvez in action during a recent local tournament.

New Caledonia's Carl N'guela and Lucas Juillot start at the top of the draw as first seeds, while the NMI's Jordan Pangilinan and Andreau Galvez will face a Solomon Islands pair, as the men's doubles games in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games kick off on June 23 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

N'guela has a wealth of experience under his belt, first competing at the Continental Championships in 2008. He will assist the youthful Juillot, who got his first taste of international badminton at the more recent VICTOR Oceania Junior Championships 2019.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI National Badminton player Jordan Pangilinan in action during a recent local tournament.

Meanwhile, Rémi Rossi won the gold in the 2019 Pacific Games alongside Rauhiri Goguenheim, but this year he will be competing with another experienced Pacific Games competitor, Leo Cucuel to form the second seeds. The Top 2 seeds will receive a bye into the quarterfinals.

Pangilinan, on the other hand, is the reigning national men's doubles champion in the Northern Mariana Islands. He and partner Andreau Galvez will compete against

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